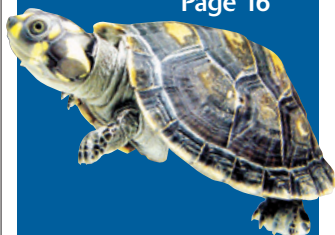


Finding a new
best friend

Page 16



Can a heliport
industry survive?

Page 4



Doctors link
cancer, red face

Page 19

Exploring the music of art



Photo by Liu Heung Shing

Karen Smith, a British-born curator and art critic in Beijing, has been introducing the world to Chinese avant-garde art for decades. She has handled exhibitions for big-name artists like Ai Weiwei and Liu Xiaodong. Through her interpretations, China's edgiest artists have been able to communicate with the Western world without misunderstandings. Her new exhibit, the first in Today Art Museum and Modern Sky's Fat Art series, promises to live up to its name: "Music to My Eyes."

Pages 12-13

Ex-captive
reveals mental
hospital abuse

Page 3

China homes
to be 4th
richest in 2015

Page 6

Porridge for
charity halted
in Zhejiang

Page 7

Visa agent
busted for
faking papers

Page 11

BEIJING'S "1ST" MAGIC & COMEDY CLUB!
INTERNATIONAL ACTS! "MONDAY THRU SATURDAY"
THE "BRILLIANT" BRYSON LANG! SHOW & OPEN BAR 8PM ¥ 200
DISCOUNT SHOWS! "4" NIGHTS A WEEK FOR EVERYONE.....
MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY
ONLY! ¥100 FOR EVERYTHING.....

Continental Airlines

PRESENTED BY

CHAO YANG PARK EAST GUANHU GARDEN TOWER S1
UPSTAIRS FROM SPORTS PUB!

TICKETS 59283045/46/47

Government brandishes banhammer at drama subbers

By Wang Yu

The honeymoon may be over for drama lovers who depend on video sharing Web sites like Tudou and Youku to keep step with the latest shows. The State Administration of Radio Film and Television (SARFT) is crushing the online distribution of "illegal" videos.

According to a notice from the administration, released last Monday, all video content not approved by relevant government departments is forbidden to be distributed online. This would ban all content made by foreign entertainment companies still unlicensed by local video distributors.

Internet distribution has won Western TV dramas like *Lost*, *Prison Break* and *24* many fans in China.

Gu Yongqiang, CEO of Youku, said TV dramas are the top category to attract visitors to Youku and to other video sharing Web sites. A Youku employee who refused to be named said domestic TV dramas are the most popular, followed by Korean and US series.

Even if the Web site acquires Chinese distribution rights from a foreign copyright holder, that may not be enough to win SARFT's approval. Domestic broadcast licenses can only be granted to a limited group of domestic TV stations and companies, but not to Web sites. SARFT has not elaborated on how it will end illegal broadcasts of TV programs on the Internet.

This is not the first time SARFT threatened video sharing Web sites. "There's an

unwritten rule in the business circle. Video-sharing Web sites upload the latest unauthorized programs under the guise of a user to avoid a lawsuit," Zhang He, CEO of joy.cn, said. Most illegal foreign TV dramas are uploaded by users, and Chinese law only holds service providers guilty if they refuse to erase unauthorized content after receiving a warning.

Even if user-submitted content is blocked, it will do little to stop peer-to-peer file sharing, by which fans can get episodes no later than half a day after their initial broadcast.

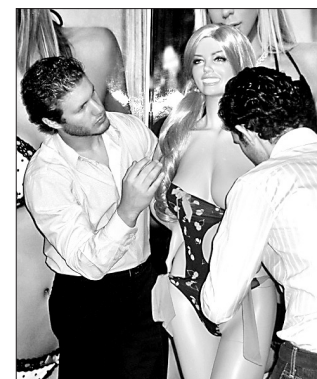
These video files – the source for many video sharing Web sites – are distributed in high definition and subtitled by fansubbers: volunteers who only know each other only by

their virtual handles. These underground organizations break down the language barrier. Without them, Wentworth Miller, leading actor of *Prison Break*, would have been an unknown when he was named the image ambassador of a local fashion brand.

Fansubbing groups have been silent about the new notice from SARFT. They remain underground because the video files they subtitle are owned by foreign entities, and their work tap dances all over that entity's copyright.

"It's an underground business. Some of the groups have been blocked after submitting their subtitled media. It's better that I don't discuss what they do-for their sake," a former fansubber said.

Chinese women sexually unsatisfied, report says



The fair shows the speedy development of the growing sex product market.

Photo by Li Zhixin

By Han Mamman

Nearly 60 percent of Chinese women were unsatisfied with their sex lives, according to research unveiled during Beijing's first International Sex Supply Exhibition, which ended Monday.

The research is based on a six-month survey of 26,000 respondents by the China Women and Children Development Center and the China Population Association.

According to the research, sexual health problems and work pressure were important causes of dissatisfaction. Only 32 percent of women were "very satisfied" or "relatively satisfied" with their sex lives. More than half said they rarely or never reached orgasm.

The report suggested women's sexual health may be hampered by a reluctance to seek medical attention for sexual illness. Nearly a quarter of women surveyed reported feeling too embarrassed to see their doctor on a regular basis for sexual illness.

"Traditional Chinese moral concepts require women to be restrained and behave in a reserved manner, but men are more active in sexual life," said Ma Xiaonian, director of Chinese Sex Science Society, who also was involved in the research.

"This indicates many Chinese women have problems in their sex lives," Ma said, stressing that sexual satisfaction does not equal physical pleasure.

Ma said communication is the best way to solve sexual problems.

"Most women are emotional. They may lose interest in sex for many reasons like work pressure, dissatisfaction with their figure or household discord," Ma said.

He said many women did not enjoy sex because they were passive and always accommodated men during the act. He said women need to be more honest with their partner.

The three-day fair held at the China International Exhibition Center to promote "the spirit of sexual health awareness" and the speedy development of the growing sex product market drew 50,000 people.

The fair featured displays of sex products, sex toys and birth control aids. Education about combating the spread of AIDS was part of the program.



City's west gets first community farm

By Sima Hao

Shi Yan, a 26-year-old doctor at Renmin University, is one of the first proponents of community-supported agriculture (CSA). She runs a farm on Phoenix ridge, in the west of Beijing, and is already taking orders for the first harvest.

CSA is not the same as the green agriculture already spreading in China. It emphasizes that consumers and farmers share risks and benefits. In CSA, consumers pay money in advance, during planting season, and reap the benefits later in the year.

Modern supermarkets and hypermarkets sell a bewildering amount of produce, but no one knows whether they were grown in a way that won't harm our health. The "buy local, buy fresh" approach of CSA is safer, Shi said.

Consumers who participate in CSA can visit the farm they sponsor any time. "The relationship between (CSA) consumers and farmers is not just a business relationship – it's a friendship," Shi said.

The model has been difficult to promote in China, though Shi has been assisted by Zhong Sheng, her first client. Zhong introduced CSA to his neighbors, and together they visit the farm each weekend.

As the parent of a three-year-old, Zhong said he cares a lot about food safety. "I do not mind how many vegetables they give me. I look at it as spending 2,000 yuan on health. Even if they harvest nothing, it's a loss I can bear," Zhong said.

Zhong and his neighbors are satisfied with the farm. Shi Yan and her partners work the land on their own without the aid of chemical fertilizer.

While Shi and her partners receive many visitors, promoting the CSA farming method remains difficult. CSA works on the honor system: there is no written contract between farmer and consumer.

Some consumers want to know how many vegetables they can get every month, but it's impossible to answer this question, Shi said. The number of outputs depends on the weather and quality of the seeds.

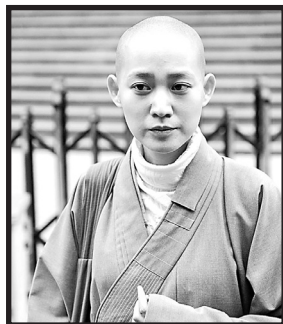
To reassure consumers, Shi is considering some form of basic contract. "It's inevitable that no one will trust our model in the beginning. I think after the first harvest things will improve, and then a contract won't be necessary," Shi said.

CSA first became popular in Japan and Switzerland in the 1960s. It was introduced to the US in the mid-1980s. More than 2,000 farms in the US follow the CSA model.



The environmentally-friendly pig pens use floors that breaking down waste and control odor without the need to shovel.

Photos provided by Shi Yan



To escape persecution, Zou turned to monastic life.



Zou was happy four years ago. Photo provided by Zou Yijun

Committed for life

Healthy mind not enough to escape the institution

By Venus Lee

Zou Yijun, a 30-year-old woman, sits cross-legged on the floor of a tea house. She wears a melancholy expression and works a string of prayer beads as she describes how her mother and brother locked her away. Forever.

In 2006, her mother and brother took her to the insane asylum, but she managed to escape when she was taken home by her mother and put under the watch of a nanny.

"If the patient says they are persecuted by their family, and the family of course denies this, then they are noted as paranoid,"

Detained for money

"I was committed for treatment at Guangzhou Baiyun Mental Hospital and Shenzhen Buhu Mental Hospital by my family in 2006. They saw to it no one but themselves could ever remove me, even though they were not my guardians," Zou Yijun says.

She was committed in Baiyun Mental Hospital first, and was released when her story was exposed by local media. She was transferred to Buhu Mental Hospital secretly by her mother and brother, who pulled on family connections. With the help of her attorney and media attention, she returned home only to be monitored by her mother and a nanny around the clock.

Since her flight to Beijing, she has avoided discussing the story for fear of being found and committed again. She now lives as a Buddhist nun.

She takes a sip of water. "My mother tricked me during a visit to my father's grave on October 21, 2006. While at the Baoshan Cemetery, I was kidnapped by a gang of men my older brother hired and injected with narcotics," she says. She awoke behind the walls of Guangzhou Baiyun Mental Asylum.

The hospital was quick to diagnose her as bipolar, with classic symptoms of excessive talking, flighty ideas, emotional instability and an excitable temperament. The diagnosis was based on her family's description and her frenzy over awaking at the asylum.

At the time of commitment, her mother and brother added to the contract a clause that she was to receive no visitors and could be discharged by no one else. "They confiscated my phone when I tried to call my attorney for help, and they refused to allow her in when she came to the hospital," she says.

Zou describes a behind-the-scenes familial intrigue that would make any Hollywood writer's mouth water. When her father died, she was the sole beneficiary of most of his estate. "He left me most of his legacy because I was the youngest. But my mother wanted it all to go to my older brother: her favorite."

Her mother demanded she abandon her inheritance and attempted to grab the 300,000 yuan left to Zou by her ex-husband when they separated, she says. The mental hospital was a

convenient way to force her to relent.

While in the hospital, she was forced to take medicine and was analyzed regularly by psychiatrists.

"Around the end of 2006, two doctors at Buhu Mental Hospital said I could be discharged were it not prohibited by my mother's contract. They told me the only way to get out sooner would be to agree to her demands," she says.

Beijing Today phoned her mother and brother, but they refused to respond to Zou's claims. They say Zou suffered two rapid blows – the loss of her father and the failure of her marriage – and after that became suicidal.

"She is insane now. What we did was for her own good," Zou Jianxiong, her brother, says.

Zou is looking forward to a court decision in her favor and hopes the contract that had her committed is ruled invalid by the court. She is seeking 10,000 yuan in damages and an apology.

"The claim is just symbolic. What I really want is to be able to live without the fear of being committed again," she says.

"Treatment of mental patients is not just a medical problem: it's a legal one. The public must have the power to intervene and restrict its procedures."

Hospitals paid off

The director of the Buhu Mental Hospital Cashier's Office, who refused to state his name, says as long as the family provides a patient's ID card, evidence of kinship and a 3,000 yuan deposit, any patient can be forced in. Family members who oversaw the commitment wield full control over the patient's release or perpetual detainment.

Hou Xiaobin, director of Beijing Tongzhou Mental Hospital, says hos-

pitals are supposed to examine a psychiatric report prepared by a licensed psychiatrist before admitting a mental patient for treatment.

The law says family members must apply to a court before having a kinsman committed. This is to assign guardianship over the committed person.

In reality, this never happens, Zou's attorney says.

"During treatment, if the patient denies being ill he will be noted as

refusing treatment. If they resist or resort to violence, they will be noted as frenzied. If the patient says they are persecuted by their family, and the family of course denies this, then they are noted as paranoid," Zou says.

The family is paying the hospital, so their word and will takes precedence over a patient's rights. Zou says patients are the resource needed for hospitals to turn a profit, so they have no qualms with acting as a jail.

Power to intervene

These lax checks lead to many patients being forced into treatment by family, even when the hospital knows nothing is wrong.

Zou's case is hardly unique. Similar fiascos have stained the images of mental hospitals in Shanghai, Guangzhou, Xi'an, Kunming, Nanjing and Beijing. Victims include millionaires and even psychiatrists, who were

forced into treatment after a conflict with their family or bosses.

"If there is no law to limit the power of a mental hospital to force treatment, then anyone could end up inside," says Zhou Xiaoqing, a professor at China University of Political Science and Law. "Treatment of mental patients is not just a medical problem: it's a legal one. The public

must have the power to intervene and restrict its procedures."

Oversight of treatment is nonexistent in many cities. Only Beijing, Shanghai and Ningbo have local regulations on mental hospitals, he says. "The patient can't get effective and timely treatment, and the way hospitals choose to receive and treat patients is totally random," he says.

No reason to deny freedom

"The patient's right to self-determination should be respected," says Liu Baiju, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). This includes the right to refuse being committed and the right to leave.

"The right of a patient to refuse to be in the hospital is recognized around the world, but they can be still forced to accept treatment if someone says they are irrational," he says.

The UN's regulations on Medical

Ethics and Protection of Patients' Rights offer a good framework. "Without the patients' agreement, they cannot be forced into compulsory treatment. Only when the patient is a danger to himself or others can he or she be legally forced into a mental hospital," he says.

He suggests that community treatment be the main channel for patients, since it carries less of a social risk. "Unless a patient's mental disorder is

very serious and treatment has been authorized by both the mental hospital and the local court, it is not necessary to have them committed. Depriving a patient of his freedom should only be a last resort," he says.

Social discrimination against mental patients is another obstacle. "Once a person has been diagnosed as mentally ill, others will treat him differently. Patients need a tolerant and caring environment," he says.

problem. The State Council expects the ministries of health, civil affairs, public security, education and justice, as well as the China Disabled Persons' Federation, Women's Federation and China Aging Problem National Commission, to solve this problem.

According to the Collection of Mental Health Policies issued by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CCDC), there are 645 mental hospitals on the mainland. Another 479 comprehensive hospitals have a department for

treating mental illness as of 2006.

In 2007, the State Council issued a notice stating that the country's bottleneck progress and the pressures that carries is causing a surge in cases of mental illness. Mental health is now considered a serious social

"Once a person has been diagnosed as mentally ill, others will treat him differently. Patients need a tolerant and caring environment,"

"The patient's right to self-determination should be respected,"

CFP Photo

Has the age of private helicopters arrived?

By Jin Zhu

A new heliport, under the Ruohang Transportation Development Company, opened to the public in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province last month. As the country's first private heliport, it is expected to usher in an era of private enterprises investing in general aviation.

But with no precedent, every step has been marked with questions for Ruohang. Can a heliport attract enough clients to offset its staggering operational costs?



Lu Yong, founder of Ruohang, has been called a pioneer in the heliport industry.

Photo provided by Ruohang



The company's only helicopter flies seven to eight "missions" every day.

CFP/Photo

Finding an opportunity

"General aviation is a fully developed industry in most countries, but it lags here in China," said Lu Yong, executive director of Ruohang.

Lu, 35, said he saw gaps in the industry after he served in the Air Force as a paratrooper 10 years ago.

Aviation networks flourish in many developed countries. In the US, all but 800 of the country's 19,800 airports are for general aviation. Although China is the second largest country in the air transportation industry, none of its 226 airports are for general aviation.

Like many air force personnel in East China, after Lu retired from the military he built up a huge war chest to continue flying.

The original plan was to buy a helicopter and launch general aviation services step by step.

"Many Chinese people have realized the advantages of helicopters. It was especially clear when helicopters were the only vehicle capable of reaching the earthquake zone last May," he said.

According to research from the China Aviation Development Research Center, there will be 1,867 helicopters in civilian use by 2013. In the economically-developed regions along the Changjiang River Basin, the market will need a least 1,000 helicopters.

However, the lack of landing sites caused development to stagnate, Lu said.

The Civil Aviation Administration (CAA) began to encourage domestic and foreign investment in general aviation in 2003.

There are few policy limitations today. Compared with transportation aviation, civil aviation has less stringent requirements for runway quality and medical care. The CAA expects a development boom in the near future, a staff member from its Jiangsu Provincial Supervision and Management Office said.

Lu said there was no special reason for him to start Ruohang. There is an opening, "(and) an opening means opportunity. When everything was prepared, I started my business," he said.

Profitable business?

The first privately funded heliport has landing sites, helicopter maintenance, flight training, business flight options, medical rescue and aerial photography.

It has generated a lot of attention since it opened in March.

Lu said the company has received hundreds of calls from people asking about the price of renting a helicopter.

The company's only helicopter usually goes out on seven to eight flights per day and takes six to eight people each time.

But still, "The difficulties are much greater than I imagined when I started the business," Lu said.

Questions about the feasibility of his project began the day he staked out a site. "The company paid almost the same cost for land as nearby real estate developers. However, hardly anyone thought it could bring in the same returns as a real estate investment," Lu said.

Although the heliport only has one copter, it still requires equipment, parts, technicians and relevant services. None of these are free.

Many also worry about flight safety. "Helicopter clients are a special group in China. People who have flown helicopters before are confident and trust us, but it's scary for those new to flight. Many of our consultations are just a run through safety questions," he said.

He was confident about the future of the industry. When Ruohang has enough helicopters to meet the mission demands, the hourly rental rate will drop from its current 30,000 yuan to 18,000 yuan – a price more people can accept.

The heliport has other sources of income, such as providing landing sites and flight maintenance. "We expect to recover our costs in 10 years," he said.

Background

Civil aviation is split into two categories: one is military and scheduled airline flights, the other is general aviation.

General aviation includes private flights, flight training, air ambulances and police aircrafts. The majority of the world's air traffic falls under this category.

The situation in China is different. Although it is the aviation market with the most room for growth, the construction of private airports remains at a standstill.

As the first privately owned heliport, Ruohang can provide flight services from Nanjing to areas within a 500 to 600-kilometer radius. Flight times must be scheduled before 5 pm one day in advance.

Tel: 025-58280000

E-mail: info@ruohang.com



The heliport can park about 15 helicopters.

Photo provided by Ruohang

Air network is the future

The next heliport will be the 120-million-yuan one in Suzhou, set to start operating before 2010.

"The Suzhou heliport is only 50 kilometers from Shanghai, the most important economic center. It will cater to flights from Suzhou, Shanghai and other nearby areas," Lu said.

If everything goes well, Ruohang will build 15 heliports in the next five years. An air transportation network connecting Yangtze River Delta to other parts of the country should be ready within three years, according to its long-term plan.

"There are many private general aviation companies. However, few of them

have invested in airport construction. At present, only a small part of the GDP comes from general aviation in China. It has huge potential," Xu Hongjiang, a senior consultant, said.

Xu said investing in airport construction is the trend for aviation company development.

"Enterprises run by private citizens need to earn money. Using mass transportation airports is expensive, and there are many restrictions on takeoffs and landings," Xu said.

He said he expects the market for relevant services to boom once the heliports start running flights.

CHINA OPEN
中国网球公开赛

Sony Ericsson
WTA TOUR

500
ATP

**星耀中网
为你绽放**

抢票热线
400-707-9999
国家网球中心 2009.10.2-11

官方票务网站 **www.ticketmaster.cn**

官方网站 **www.chinaopen.com.cn**

官方主转播运营商 **CCTV5**

官方酒店 **Marriott**

中国官方指定平面设计：北京盛世创新设计艺术公司

CITIC Pacific chairman resigns

The chairman of CITIC Pacific, the Hong Kong arm of a Chinese government investment company, resigned Wednesday amid a scandal over currency losses. The bank has become China's highest-profile corporate casualty of the global financial crisis.

Chairman Larry Yung, 67, stepped down after Hong Kong police raided the company's office last Friday as part of an investigation into wrongway bets on foreign currencies that may have cost the company 13.6 billion yuan, CITIC Pacific said. Managing Director Henry Fan was also leaving.

"Yung believed that his resignation would be in the best interests of the company," the company said in a statement to the Hong Kong stock exchange.

Their departures mark the biggest boardroom shake-up in greater China as the global economic meltdown forces out top executives from the US to Japan and to Europe, and damage what has long been a leading symbol of China's corporate ambitions.

Yung comes from Chinese business royalty, the son of former state vice president Rong Yiren — who was one of the country's biggest magnates and once dubbed the "red capitalist." Yung has been listed among the richest people in China with a fortune estimated at some US \$3.7 billion by *Forbes* magazine in 2007.

CITIC Pacific — a conglomerate whose dealings run from airlines to mining and Wal-Mart stores



Yung resigned amidst a scandal over currency loss. CFP Photo

— stunned the market last year when it revealed massive losses from hedging contracts on foreign currencies, notably the Australian dollar, that turned sour amid the financial crisis.

The company was forced to seek a 10-billion-yuan bailout from its Beijing-based affiliate CITIC Group, its main investment company. Chang Zhenming, a vice chairman and president of CITIC Group, was named as new chairman and managing director.

Other Chinese firms have undergone management reshuffles

amid the crisis, including white goods giant Gome Electrical Appliances Holdings and computer maker Lenovo. However, CITIC Pacific stands out for the company's deep government ties and direct link to the turmoil.

Yung founded CITIC Pacific in 1986 with US \$30 million from the conglomerate's overseas investment arm, the China International Trust and Investment, now CITIC Group.

Today, CITIC Group owns 22 percent of CITIC Pacific, with the rest held by managers and private investors. (Agencies)

Analysis Yung's departure may prompt drastic changes

Larry Yung's resignation may prompt drastic changes in CITIC Group.

"We believe drastic changes are needed to turn the company around," analysts at Bank of America's Merrill Lynch unit led by Christie Ju said. Yung's resignation was "positive, but not enough," according to the analysts, who wrote in an April 5 report that CITIC Pacific may need to sell some of its assets.

"With Chang as the CEO, the company will move to a new direction," said Liu Yang, who helps manage US \$1.8 billion at Atlantis Investment Management in Hong Kong. "To some extent it's very positive for the company going forward" with Yung's departure, Liu said.

Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's Ratings Services both said the management change at CITIC Pacific won't have an immediate impact on its debt ratings. Moody's has a Ba1 rating and Standard & Poor's has a BB+ recommendation.

CITIC Pacific on March 25 reported its first annual loss of HK \$12.7 billion (11 billion yuan). The company announced its currency losses in October from contracts to fund an iron ore mine in Australia. Bets that the Australian dollar would gain incurred losses after the currency tumbled.

GM, Mercedes-Benz sales rise to record

General Motors and Daimler AG's luxury brand Mercedes-Benz said their sales in China rose to a monthly record in March, despite a global slowdown in auto demand.

March was Mercedes-Benz's "best ever" month in China, with sales rising 50 percent from the same period in 2008, Mercedes-Benz (China) President and Chief Executive Klaus Maier said Wednesday.

"I think it shows confidence in China is back," Maier said. "Entrepreneurs in China are positive and are in a good mood."

In China and Hong Kong, 11,800 Mercedes-Benz vehicles were sold, up 22.6 percent from the 9,626 units sold last March.

(Agencies)

Enlight Media holds on to the music award

By Wang Yu

A hundred singers, song writers, bands and producers gathered in the Sheraton hotel on Beijing's west side to attend the Mengniu Music Chart awards. The event was organized by Enlight Media, a reputable entertainment TV producer that hopes to establish the awards as the country's most professional and credible.

This is the ninth year Enlight Media has released a summary of the music industry. As the pioneer of local charts, the company has cooperated with Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, which audits for the Grammy awards. The annual event is the first that established nominees for "alternative" music in China.

Only nominees, record companies and local media were invited this year.

Several well-known singers were absent from the event. "A few days before, a singer called me to ask whether or not he would get an award. I said the list of the winners could be only revealed today (during the ceremony), so he decided not to come. It's a pity he isn't sitting in the audience, because he might have won," Wang Changtian, president of Enlight Media, said before the event.

There are many music charts in China, but none have won listeners' attention and trust. The dim Chinese music industry has deeper problems that make it hard for organizers to hold such events with credibility.

"We have studied the history of the Grammys and the Oscars: they faced the same problems in their first decades. All we have to do is stick with it," Wang said.

But statistics are rarely good news for a music industry. Traditional piracy and Internet and cell phone downloading barely made a dent in the industry in 2003, when the top album sold 4 million copies. In 2007, the top album sold 580,000 copies.

The crash has cut into production and promotion budgets. Over 400 EP albums were released last year — 20 times as many as in 2006, because of the albums' low cost. Promotion expenses for an album in 2006 topped 1 million yuan, but fell as low as 200,000 in 2008.

The theme of the ceremony was standing by the industry, and Enlight Media said it hopes to be a player.

China to be no. 4 in wealthy homes by 2015

By Jin Zhu

The country is positioned to become the world's fourth largest nation with more than 4 million wealthy households by 2015, trailing only the US, Japan and the UK, according to the report released April 2 by McKinsey & Company, a global management consultancy.

The report was based on face-to-face interviews with 1,750 wealthy households in 16 cities during the fourth quarter of 2008.

McKinsey defines a wealthy household as one whose annual income is over 250,000 yuan.

"The growth rate of Chinese wealthy consumers is much higher

than other countries," Vinay Dixit, senior director in McKinsey Asia Consumer Centers, said. "There were 1.6 million wealthy households at the end of last year, and the amount will increase 15.9 percent annually in the next five to seven years."

The growth rates in the US and Japan will be only 2.1 percent and 1.7 percent respectively during the same period of time, he said.

The wealthy are mainly living in eastern and southern regions, and 30 percent of them are in the Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen.

But McKinsey predicts that

three quarters of the growth in the number of wealthy households will be from outside the four cities.

"It means that the luxury brands should take a quick step in developing the second-tier market, instead of devoting all their energy to the big cities," Dixit said.

On the other hand, McKinsey said the Chinese wealthy are much younger than those in the US and Japan: 80 percent of them are under 45 years old.

"It is good news to the global players since the wealthy would have a much longer period of time to enjoy and consume luxury goods," Dixit said, "the products or services

in China need to fit younger wealthy consumers from now on."

Beside that, among the current 1.6 million wealthy households, nearly 50 percent were not rich four years ago. And McKinsey predicted more than half of those who will be wealthy by 2015 are not yet today.

Wealthy Chinese consumers always confuse luxury brands with products with high quality and price, like Nike and Casio, he said.

"Obviously, wealthy Chinese consumers are not mature. But it means companies have greater flexibility to shape consumer perception and behavior, especially for the luxury brands," he said.

Market watch

Vodka maker targets local market

By Huang Daohen

The nation's spirits industry continues to entice top beverage groups with New Zealand's leading vodka-maker 42BELOW becoming the latest multinational to tap the market.

The company said last week it would expand its business and distribution in China. But instead of building a joint venture with a local distillery, the company will focus on cultural promotions by sponsoring a film showcase, Paul Dibbayawan, CEO of 42BELOW, said.

The OneDreamRush 42 Second Film Showcase, a partnership between the Beijing Film Studio and 42BELOW, challenged 42 filmmakers to create a short film inspired by the question "How do we dream?"



Paul Dibbayawan

"The event is the first step for us to catch up," Dibbayawan said. "China is a potential market, but it is difficult to enter the liquor industry as we are a relatively new brand here."

China is not a traditional vodka

market, and its volume lags far behind traditional *baijiu*, which sees 500 million case sales per year. "But it's a changing generation. Chinese people are looking to Western living and consumer habits are rapidly changing," Dibbayawan said.

"There is a big interest and we have received excellent initial comments. Such a huge market offers good long-term opportunities," he said.

While joint ventures and cooperation with local distilleries are important for foreign liquor labels in China, Dibbayawan said it was not so urgent. "As a newcomer, we first have to let people know what our brand is about," he said. The key to growth will eventually lie in

local partners.

"We need committed partners for the future that we can work in close collaboration. Entering a market is easy; finding a committed partner is more challenging," he said.

Dibbayawan said he was optimistic about the spirit market, even amidst the economic downturn. "If you play in the very high-end market, you will be affected. But in terms of common products, there are certain things still needed. No matter whether there is a financial crisis or not, people will still drink," he said.

According to market analyst group Datamonitor, spirits sales in China are expected to grow by about 44.6 percent to 195 million yuan in 2010.

Sanitation concerns halt free porridge distribution

By Huang Daohen

There was a deluge of donations and volunteers across the country following the Sichuan earthquake last May. But charitable gestures from the grassroots sometimes get curtailed because of unwieldy government policies.

Last Saturday, a businessman in Yiwu, Zhejiang Province, was ordered by local authorities to close his porridge stand, which for more than two months had been giving free porridge and steamed buns to migrant workers.

The local health department said the directive was based on sanitation concerns. The people who distributed food at the stand lacked health certificates, and it was unclear whether their bowls and chopsticks were properly disinfected, the department said in a statement.

Lin Ruxin, from Wenzhou in Zhejiang, opened the stand at a local labor market on January 30. Lin, who is a migrant worker himself – albeit better off – said he knew the sufferings of people making a living away from home, especially in these dire economic circumstances.

The 50-year-old Lin, who runs a small printing business in the city, and volunteers would set up the stand every morning

between 6:30 and 7:20 am. “We just wanted to help job-seeking migrant workers and make sure they got some food every day,” Lin said. He initially intended to offer free food for only 15 days, but the lack of jobs in the market convinced him people still needed his help.

Lin said he spent about 1,200 yuan every day to give away 1,000 bowls of porridge and 2,000 steamed buns.

He has closed the stand in compliance with the government’s order, but hopes to reopen it with the guidance of local authorities.

There were no new developments in the case as of press time, but local health authorities said they supported Lin’s work and were working on sanitation guidelines for him.



Xinhua Photo

The porridge stand offering free food to migrant workers, but halted because of health concerns.

Comment

The gov's responsibility

It wasn't appropriate to set up a charity site since government departments are responsible for public welfare. Besides, a long queue of people on one of the city's busiest streets would affect its appearance.

– Felix, IT engineer

A ray of sunshine

The porridge distribution

booth is giving warmth to disadvantaged groups in an old and simple manner. The act is a ray of sunshine for society in this economic winter. The philanthropist deserves respect. Instead of ordering its closure, it should be promoted throughout the country.

– Xianwen, Beijing resident

Charity is a supplement

The past decades have wit-

nessed rapid economic development and accumulation of wealth. However, the living standards and quality of food of some people still need to be improved.

Care from private individuals should be a supplement. The government should be tolerant and promulgate new laws or regulations to provide policy and legal backing to such char-

itable activities.

– Wen Yi, lawyer

Offer jobs instead

I won't say whether Lin's deeds are right or not. But merely giving migrant workers some steamed bread cannot solve their problems. If the “boss” really wants to help, he should offer them jobs instead.

– Roberto, editor

Netizens pick eight ‘most unacceptable art’



“To Add One Meter to an Anonymous Mountain” gets a thumbs-down from netizens.

Photo provided by 163.com

By He Jianwei

Five naked men and women piled themselves face-down on top of each other on a mountain. This was the performance “To Add One Meter to an Anonymous Mountain” by the Beijing East Village artists in 1995, regarded by netizens as one of the eight “most unacceptable works of art.”

Last week, netizens picked their eight choices from 15 candidates on gfanow.com, a Web site set up by teachers and students from The Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts.

“There are many good works

among Chinese avant-garde artists, but we still do not know what to teach and how students learn contemporary art in college,” said Wu Yangbo, a teacher at the university’s department of art history and founder of gfanow.com. “As a teacher of art theory, we hope the exercise can have a positive influence on Chinese contemporary art and popularize it among the public.”

Wu and his colleagues selected the 15 candidates, including Marcel Duchamp’s “Fountain,” a urinal art made in 1917 – the same work voted “the most

influential artwork of the 20th century” five years ago by 500 British art industry insiders.

Wu said the 15 pieces were chosen not because they were “bloody” or “abnormal,” but because they represented marginalized art concepts in the country.

After a week-long vote, the eight “winners” were revealed. First place went to a body suspension performance, which involved participants piercing their bodies with large meat hooks, attaching chains to the hooks, and then suspending themselves from various ceiling fixtures. Four people born

after 1980 did the performance at the 798 Art District in 2006.

“To Add One Meter to an Anonymous Mountain” is fourth on the list.

Based on the voting results, Wu concluded that the public’s taste for avant-garde art has changed. A few years ago, people would have judged a piece of art based on its beauty or ugliness; nowadays, morality and ethics are their criteria, Wu said.

Although Wu’s intention for holding the exercise was academic, it has been criticized by some artists and netizens.

Comment

A stunt

This is nonsense! It proves that avant-garde art is treated as a stunt by the Chinese people. It’s a pity that teachers in an art college were involved in hyping up this thing.

– Tracy Yan, art manager of a gallery

A problem of the education system

This is no way to popularize contemporary art in China. If he (Wu) believes there is a problem in art education, I think it is the problem of the Chinese system of education.

– Cang Xin, artist and co-creator of “To Add One Meter to an Anonymous Mountain”

Meaning of avant-garde at the core

The core issue is the meaning of avant-garde art. The definition of art has changed since Duchamp brought a urinal into a museum. It seems that every article can become a piece of art.

– Yang Yuyao, a teacher at The Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts

600 fans meet French actress Binoche

By Zhang Dongya

More than 600 people packed the China Film Archives Wednesday evening for a glimpse of Oscar-winning actress Juliette Binoche. The French movie star is known to Chinese audiences for her roles in *The English Patient* and *Chocolat*.

Binoche, who began her acting career in 1988 in the film *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, said the only reason she started acting was to gain recognition and love. "I'm fond of the feeling of being loved, which

became the driving force in my work," she said.

Despite her intense drive to succeed, the 40-year-old Binoche said she has cherished the creative process more than her movies' box office successes. "I simply followed my body and mind. When looking at a script, once I hear a voice inside me saying 'yes,' I will take the role without hesitation," she said.

"I really enjoy the moments when I act, when the 'I' in the film and the real 'I' look at each other, when I communicate with

the director."

Binoche discussed Chinese films and spoke highly of Taiwanese director Hou Hsiao-Hsien. She collaborated with Hou in *Flight of the Red Balloon*, which was released last year. "Hou Hsiao-Hsien was so open and generous with his actors and actresses. He has distinctive insight and taste. The way he did his film opened my mind completely, and I think it changed something in me," she said.

The French actress said China is a treasure trove of creative

inspiration and said Chinese directors and actors "should keep your own culture, instead of selling your heart to the market or adapting Hollywood tastes."

At a news conference in Shanghai last month, Binoche said she planned to meet Chinese director Jiang Wen in Beijing to talk about several projects.

The China Film Archives on Wednesday evening also presented two Binoche films: *The Lovers on the Bridge* (1991) and *Summer Hours*, released last year.



Juliette Binoche

CFP Photo

Mega exhibition presents goods and services for expats



Over 150 exhibitors from different fields will join the Beijing Expat Show next month.

Photo provided by WEA

By Han Manman

The second Expat Show Beijing, which aims to be the biggest expatriate gathering in town this year, will happen May 22 to 24 at the China World Trade Center, the event's organizer said yesterday.

The show will present products and services targeted at Beijing's high-income and information-hungry foreign residents. "Living and working away from home can be a bit daunting, therefore we hope visitors to the show will discover lots of useful information and mingle with other expats at the show," Telmo Freitas, director of organizer World Event Agency (WEA), said.

Freitas said 150 exhibitors will join the show this year, including those from the fields of finance and investment, health, hotels, education, airlines, real estate and travel.

Around 25 associations will be present at the event: charity organizations such as Morning Tears and New Hope Foundation; community associations like Canadi-

ans in China, Brazilians in China and Italian Women in China; and non-profit groups including Roots & Shoots and China Culture Center.

"Maybe you're looking for a school for your children, a Mandarin school for yourself, a maid for your family, certain financing services to secure your future or health care services for your family. The show will provide you with more information about these," Freitas said.

The three-day exhibition will also feature bazaars, a soccer tournament, the Chinese Culture Center and Kid's Land for the younger visitors.

Since entry to the show is free, the number of attendees is expected to reach as high as 10,000.

The Expat Show took place twice last year: in Beijing in the spring and in Shanghai in the fall. It is the first annual event in town geared toward establishing face-to-face contact between expatriates and companies providing products for expats' daily life.

BEIJING TODAY

serving An English weekly
the expat community

Expat News

Stories of the city's expats

Community

Building a harmonious international society

Commerce & Consulates

Promoting unity between all peoples

News U can use

Helping each other, progressing together

BEIJING TODAY

Published every Friday, 24 pages
selling at China Post Newsstands
2 Yuan per copy and 104 Yuan for one year subscription
Sending your info/name/delivery address/post code/Tel by email to get 2 weeks Beijing Today for free
Tel: 010-65902512, 65902626 Email: btsubscription@jynet.com

Health care in remote areas an imperative says UNICEF

By Huang Daohen

Health care is a vital area on which the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and local governments need to cooperate to improve the lives of children in remote rural areas, the UN body's China representative said Monday.

Yin Yin Nwe made the statement at a meeting to report the findings of UNICEF's week-long field work in Jiangxi Province earlier this month. Attendees included UNICEF officials, who visited rural families to put together a TV program; actress Gigi Leung, ambassador of the Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF; and fellow showbiz personality Eric Suen.

The TV program, a collaboration between UNICEF, the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Health, documented the living conditions of children in Jiangxi's mountainous Ganzhou region. It aims to gather donations for China's Kids Health Fund.

"Many friends have asked why I did such trips one after another," said Leung, who made her sixth visit to the area on



The UNICEF group carried out a week-long field work in rural Jiangxi earlier this month.

Photo provided by UNICEF

March 31. "My answer is simple: Those children need our help."

During the trip, the group spoke to families about the hardships of living in a remote village. One boy developed mental and physical disabilities after birth because there was no local hospital in the locality; the mother had no choice but to give birth at home.

According to a UNICEF report, Ganzhou is one of the country's poorest regions, with high maternal and child mortality rates, and high rates of child malnutrition. The area's population of 8 million is widely dispersed, making access to good health services difficult, the report said.

"In Hong Kong, we take

for granted the availability of food, water, transportation and access to good medical care, even amid the economic downturn. But here, people are struggling to achieve basic living necessities," Leung said.

UNICEF said new subsidies for poor families will be used toward creating access to better, more affordable medical care.

French journalism schools recruiting Chinese students

By Zhang Dongya

France's journalism schools want Chinese students. This was the message from an alliance of four French journalism schools at a forum in Beijing last Sunday.

"We aim to educate the best journalists despite the fact that only 15 percent of journalists who hold qualifications graduated from journalism schools," Remy Rieffel, spokesman from the Institute Francais de Presse (IFP), or French Press Institute, said. The school has a cooperative agreement with the Communication University of China, and two Chinese nationals are currently enrolled with it.

Another member of the alliance, the Ecole Supérieure de Journalisme de Lille (ESJ), or the Higher Journalism Education of Lille, founded in 1924 is one of the oldest journalism schools in Western Europe.

Every year, ESJ accepts 56 students including 10 from abroad for a two-year program that includes courses in print, radio, TV, multimedia and wire reporting. It began recruiting Chinese students in 2006. Four have graduated so far, with some working for French media in Beijing.

Centre de Formation de Journalistes de Paris (CFJ), the Training Center of Journalists of Paris, accepts 30 students annually, and plans to take in one or two Chinese students this year.

"We are trying to keep the leading role in two aspects: professional ethics and professional skills," Richard Artz, spokesman of CFJ said. The school also accepts mid-career journalists who are interested in further studies, he said.

All members of the alliance provide on-the-job training, and they encourage foreign students to work in their home countries. But an education in France already gives graduates an advantage in the international media scene, the group said.

About a hundred Chinese students and their parents attended the forum, which also provided practical information about studying in France. This year, three Chinese students will be given a scholarship by the French Embassy to go to CFJ, ESJ and IFP.

Mexico lures tourists with simpler visa application process

By Zhao Hongyi

Gorgeous beaches, delectable cuisine, Latin American songs and dances in Cancun ... The Mayan pyramids and ruins,

ancient cultural relics, archaeological sites on the Yucatan Peninsula Mexico displayed its rich tourist attractions at a conference in Beijing Tuesday

aimed at luring Chinese tourists to the country.

Mexican ambassador Jorge Guajardo announced at the event that Mexico has expanded its visa sections in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong, and shortened the application process from two weeks to three days for both tour groups and individuals. Visitors may be granted a 10-year multiple-entry visa.

The Mexican Tourism Board, together with domestic travel agencies, has created more than 20 tour packages specifically for Chinese tourists, said Eligio Serna, who was recently appointed by the board to oversee its China program. Among the offerings is a one-week holiday priced at 30,000 yuan, including return airfare and accommodation.

Aero Mexico, the national carrier, offers the only direct flights between China and Latin America. Last year, it opened twice-weekly direct flights from Shanghai to Mexico City and

vice-versa. "Many Latin American countries hope to use these flights to attract Chinese tourists," Guajardo said.

China is Mexico's second largest trading partner next to the US. Bilateral trade reached 218 billion yuan last year, in which China had a huge surplus, the ambassador said.

"There is an imbalance there, but we won't use protectionism to narrow the gap," Guajardo said. "Instead we hope to generate revenue by invigorating our tourism industry."

"China sent purchasing delegations to Europe and Africa last month," he said. "We hope you will send the delegations to Latin America as well."

Last year, Mexico ranked sixth among tourist destinations, with a total 23 million visitors. Its embassy and consulates in China issued 17,000 tourist visas last year.

"This is a 10-percent increase over the previous year and we expect to double that figure to 35,000 by 2010," Guajardo said.



Jorge Guajardo, Mexico's ambassador (right), and Eligio Serna, China director of the Mexican Tourism Board.

Photo by Zhao Hongyi

Malta opens visa application center in Beijing

By Zhao Hongyi

After nearly a year's preparation, the Embassy of Malta opened its visa application center in Beijing on Wednesday.

The visa center, located at the Oriental Kenzo Tower on Dongzhimen Wai Dajie, is run by independent contractor Beijing Shuangxiong Foreign Service Company.

A small island-country in

the Mediterranean, Malta has become a popular destination for Chinese tourists. Its embassy in Beijing issued 1,500 visas last year, the majority of which were tourist visas, followed by business and student visas, Karl Xuereb, the Maltese ambassador, said.

"We expect to put up the same visa centers in Shanghai and

Guangzhou in the near future to provide more convenience to Chinese tourists," Xuereb said at the visa center's inauguration ceremony.

Beijing Shuangxiong Foreign Service Company is a visa processing agency, which has also been sub-contracted by the embassies of the UK, Belgium, Canada, India and Italy.

Carcinogenic residue found in Beijing fruits and vegetables



Greenpeace encourages citizens to talk to their supermarkets about tightening quality monitoring

Photo provided by Greenpeace

By Annie Wei

Residents of Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou are eating fruits and vegetables with pesticide residue every day, five of which are carcinogenic. The shocking finding was released this week by International NGO Greenpeace, which called on supermarkets to tighten quality monitoring to protect consumers.

From December 2008 to February this year, Greenpeace conducted tests on fruits and vegetables found in supermarket chains like OurLotus, Wal-Mart, CR Vanguard, Nonggongshang Chaoshi and two

local markets in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. Results found 50 kinds of pesticide residue in 40 of 45 samples; five samples had more than 10 types each and 25 samples had under five kinds.

"We found 13 different types of pesticide residue in cucumbers from Guangzhou CR Vanguard and strawberries from Beijing Wal-Mart," Luo Yuannan, food and agriculture campaign manager at Greenpeace, said. "The threat from such mixed pesticides is very dangerous."

The NGO found in nine samples five pesticides described

as highly toxic by the World Health Organization (WHO). The samples included shepherd's purse and cow peas from OurLotus in Shanghai. Also found were other residue that can lead to cancer and endocrine disorders, which affect people's ability to reproduce.

"Detergents can only clean residue left on the surface. Sometimes the fruits and vegetables have already absorbed the pesticide," Luo said.

The organization pointed out that food safety can only be achieved when the agriculture model shifts to organic farming

from the current fertilizer and pesticide-dependent one.

According to a Greenpeace survey in 2007, 80 percent of respondents thought pesticide residue was the most important factor in food safety, and 70 percent said supermarkets should set up a monitoring system to oversee this issue.

Meanwhile, the NGO has called on supermarket chains to take responsibility for consumers' health and to tighten their product quality monitoring. It also encouraged consumers to express their concerns to supermarkets and markets they often visit.

Time Out names best restaurants

By Annie Wei

Time Out Beijing magazine unveiled this year's winners of its annual Eating Out Awards at a party in Sanlitun attended by over a hundred guests.

Within Beijing's constantly evolving dining scene, the awards aim to recognize establishments that strive to provide quality food and service. It is also a way to encourage positive changes within the industry.

This year, the awards grew from eight to 10 categories with the addition of Best Service and Best Wine Experience. "We decided to include these categories as the industry has become more sophisticated to warrant it," Kenneth Tan, the editor, said.

The winners named at last Monday's event were chosen from a list of over 200 nominees by a panel that included the magazine's past and present food editors. And for the first time, the judges included some 100 industry insiders.

Sureno took home the title Best New Restaurant. The Mediterra-

nean dining establishment earned top marks for its quality food, casual atmosphere and top-notch service. It also received recognition in the Best Service category.

Other favorites included Maison Boulud a Pekin, which won Best Wine Experience and two merit awards; Agua, recipient of Best International Cuisine and a merit award in Most Innovative Cuisine; and Dadong Kaoya, which was named Best Chinese Restaurant.

Guests at the awards ceremony in Punk Bar at The Opposite House, which included restaurants chefs, local celebrities and food writers, were treated to a free-flow of martini and champagne.

Aside from crowning the city's food and beverage stars, the Eating Out Awards scheme was conceptualized as an extension of the magazine's Food and Drink section – a food lover's guide to eating and drinking well in the city. All Time Out reviews are done anonymously and meals are paid for by the magazine.



A dozen new restaurants were recognized.



The awards ceremony was held in Punk bar at the Opposite House.

Photos provided by Time Out

Event

BJ Green Drinks 2nd anniversary

Spring has come to town and it's time to celebrate the 2nd year anniversary of BJ Green Drinks! BJ Green Drinks is an opportunity for people interested in corporate social responsibility, social and environmental justice, and sustainable development to chat and network. The get-together takes place every second Tuesday of the month. Bring friends and colleagues to the gathering; the more the merrier!

Where: The Bookworm, 4 Nansanlitun Lu (nearest subway stops are Dongzhimen, Tuanjiehu and Dongshishitao), Chaoyang District

When: April 14, 7-10 pm

Tel: 6586 9507

Cost: Free

Beijing Improv goes green

Beijing Improv's mainstage English players are back on April 25 with more audience-inspired hilarity, songs and skits. With the first signs of spring upon us, this month's show improvisers are going green with environment-inspired comedy! Before the 8:30 pm show, there will be an "eco-rap" featuring Sustainable J at Jianghu bar. Tickets go on sale at 7:30 pm.

Where: Jianghu Jiuba, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Dongcheng District
Tel: 6401 4611

Where: Peng Hao Theatre, 35 Dongmianhua Hutong, Dongcheng District

Tel: 6400 6452, 6400 6472

Cost: 30 yuan (proceeds to benefit chinacharitychallenge.org)

Ticket reservations can be made until April 23 by emailing beijingimprovix@gmail.com. Seating is first come first served. Last year, the show sold out 12 minutes after tickets went on sale, so organizers recommend booking tickets.

Reserved tickets not picked up by 8 pm will be sold at the door.

2nd Beijing Dance Festival

BeijingDance / LDTX, one of the country's leading modern dance companies, is looking for performers from all over the country to participate in the 2nd Beijing Dance Festival.

The company not only presents cutting-edge choreography but also helps promote young dancers. It is difficult for undiscovered artists to find opportunities to perform, so BeijingDance / LDTX is providing young talents the rare opportunity to learn, exchange knowledge and take the stage in China's cultural capital.

Where: 8-2 Dongdan Santiao (northeast corner of the Oriental Plaza), Dongcheng District

When: April 15-19, 7:30 pm

Tel: 6405 4842

Cost: starting from 80 yuan; online ticketing at piao.com.cn

(By Annie Wei)

Agent gets foreigners Residence Permit illegally

By Zheng Lu

Foreigners who come to China for work first need to get a work permit before they can claim their residence permit. Anyone caught obtaining these documents through unlawful means will be fined 5,000 yuan and deported, the Administration Division of Exit and Entry of the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau (PSB) has said.

Last month, the bureau caught a local visa agent with a handful of fake papers. The man surnamed Zhou, who worked for a Russian visa agency, went to the PSB to apply for residence permits for eight foreigners. But the police immediately suspected his documents to be fake.

Upon questioning that same day, Zhou admitted he violated the law.

He said he falsified the translation of the foreigners' school diplomas in order to get them a residence permit. He said he earned 300 yuan for each falsified document.

The PSB's investigation showed that Zhou's employer was a legitimate entity and was operating lawfully. After working there for nearly a year, however, Zhou found a way to make money on the side.

According to the law, work permits can only be granted to foreigners who have at least a bachelor's degree. This was where Zhou came in: He offered fake school certificates to people who did not meet the requirements.

Zhou said he was always conscientious about following visa regulations until he met a woman near the Sihui subway station who said she could duplicate stamps. It was a

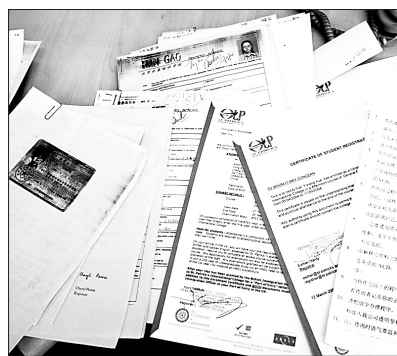
coincidence that at the time, Zhou's employer asked him to apply for residence permits for two Russian women who turned out to have only gone to vocational school.

Zhou remembered the woman at Sihui. He showed her a legitimate translation company's stamp and the woman said she could copy it without any problem. He changed the Russian applicants' education status in the Chinese translation of their school certificates and had the woman stamp the papers. Zhou ended up pocketing the money that should have gone to the translation company; he also obtained a work permit for the women who were clearly ineligible.

The police remind foreigners to carefully choose their visa agency and to check if it is registered with the authorities. "We welcome you to consult at the Exit and Entry bureau for any questions you might have," Lin Song, a PSB official, said.

The normal procedure for getting a residence permit is as follows: The Industrial and Commercial Bureau (ISB) will send the foreign employee an "invitation letter" to work in the country. With this letter, the person should go to the ISB with his or her employee card, then proceed to the Labor Bureau to apply for a work permit. Once the applicant has obtained all the documents, he or she can finally apply for a residence permit at the PSB's Administration Division of Exit and Entry.

An agent is allowed to go through the procedures on behalf of the foreigner employee as long as the documents are complete.



Illegal documents found by PSB.



To find legal visa agencies, consult the Exit and Entry Bureau. CFP Photos

European palace treasures on display at the Forbidden City



Artifacts from the Polish royal family are on display in the Forbidden City till July.

CFP Photo

By Annie Wei

About 177 artifacts including crowns, a throne and a scepter belonging to the Polish royal family will be on display at the Forbidden City beginning this week.

These treasures date back to Poland's Saxon court in the 17th and 18th centuries. The exhibition showcases articles related to the politics, culture, architecture, art and daily life of that period.

The exhibit runs until July, and tickets cost 20 yuan per person; students get 50 percent off.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to:
weiyang@ynet.com

I just arrived in Beijing with a work visa and need to get a residence permit. Is it true I will be required to pay a 5-percent tax on my apartment rent at the police station?

Your residence permit has nothing to do with your rent. But you might need to show your lease agreement at the police station to get your Temporary Residence Certificate. Your landlord is required to pay the 5-percent tax on your rent, not you. Expats whose companies reimburse them for rent need to ask their landlord for an official invoice. In exchange for an invoice, which puts the rent on official record, some landlords will ask their tenant to pay the 5-percent tax. Better to discuss this with your landlord if you have not yet signed a lease.

I am looking for a place to study on the weekends, something like a library that's walking distance from Chaoyang Park. It should preferably be a place where I could stay all day.

You can try the Chaoyang District Library, which is near the park. You can stay there as long as it is open: From Monday to Friday, 9 am to 9 pm; on Saturday and Sunday, 9 am to 7 pm.

Where: 17 Jintai Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8599 2780

Web site: cylib.cn

I live in Shunyi district and would like to find out how much it costs to hire a full-time house cleaner. If I do hire a live-in housekeeper, how much am I expected to pay? Is it a good idea to get a car?

A Chinese house cleaner will typically charge 1,500 to 2,000 yuan a month for eight hours of work every day. Live-in help who can clean the house and take care of a child will expect around 2,500 yuan a month.

Only a few expats who live in Shunyi buy a car, especially since people are not sure how long they will stay in Beijing. A better idea is to hire a part-time driver who has his or her own car.

I moved to Beijing recently and haven't had a chance to use my iPhone 3G. How can I activate it here?

If you purchased it from an Apple store, you can go to the Apple Web site to register and unlock it in any network. China will soon have 3G capability; check with a China Mobile outlet for more information.

I just moved into a shared apartment and I've seen three cockroaches in the house. What can I do to get rid of them?

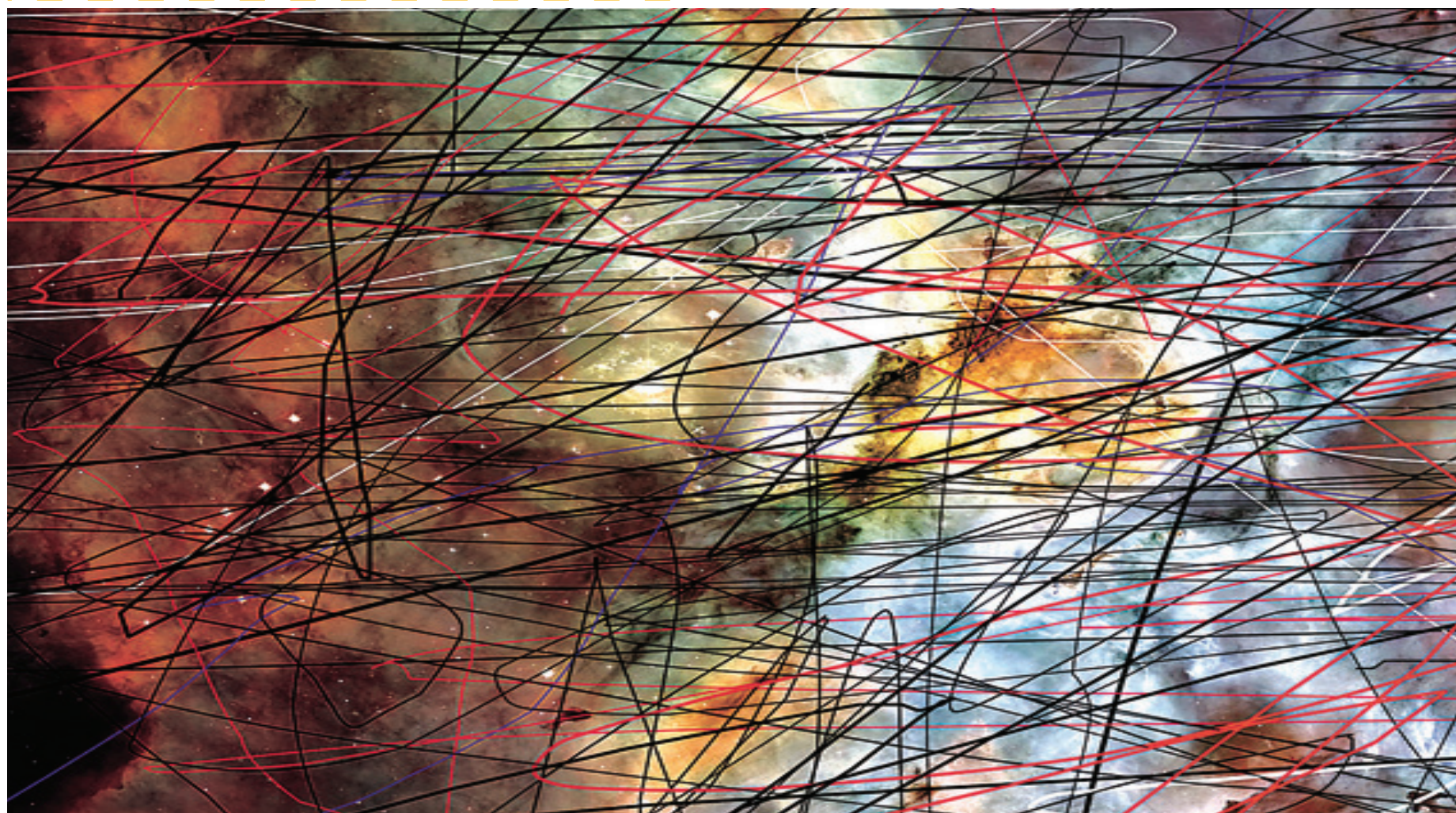
You can try the following:

1. Starve them (Don't leave food where the roaches can get to them.)
2. Clean dishes thoroughly.
3. Put roach motels in dark areas where they are most likely to hide.
4. Keep the bathroom as clean as possible. Avoid filth buildups of any kind; cockroaches love dark, damp and warm places.
5. Clean your house regularly. Sweep under and behind the bed, wardrobes and heavy furniture.

(By Sima Hao)

Marriage between mu

Curator Karen Smith observes Chinese art



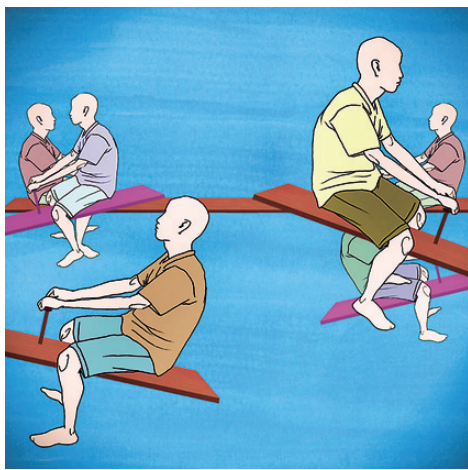
Xu Ruotao, *I See it, I Hear It*, oil on canvas, 200x400cm, 2009

“In English, we say ‘music to my ears,’ which means the music sounds good for me. If you are hungry and someone tells you ‘let’s go to eat,’ you will feel it is what you want to hear. But in this exhibition, the music can be seen, so I call it ‘music to my eyes.’”

Photos provided by Karen Smith



Pei Li, *Something Missing*, video work, 2009



Sun Lei, *Colourful Gyroscope*, animation, 2008



Liu Ye, *Chet Baker*, oil on canvas, 40x30cm 2009



Liu Ye, *Mozart*, oil on canvas, 40x30cm, 2009

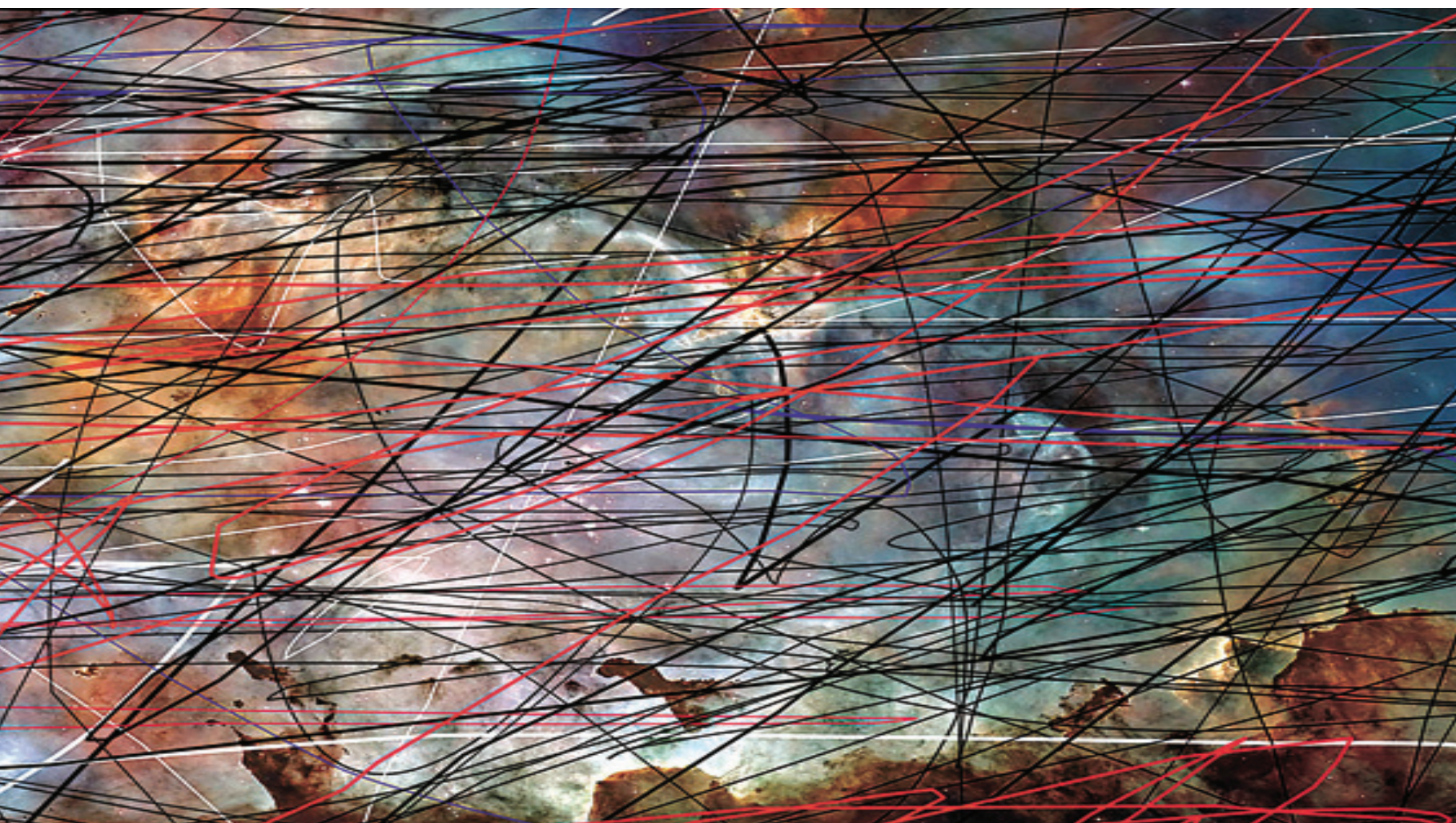
Music and art

By He Jianwei

Every work of art has hidden music. The project "Music to My Eyes," curated by Karen Smith, opens next Friday to show the relationship visual art has with sound and music. The exhibition is the first in the Fat Art series, organized by Today Art Museum and Modern Sky, an independent record label in China.

As a curator and critic, Smith brings together artists and musicians, with sound and vision, for a dynamic and compelling show.

With 17 years in Chinese art, Smith has curated many exhibitions to propel Chinese art to the world stage. She also penned the first systematic study of contemporary Chinese art by a foreign critic. In her studio, Smith talks about the new exhibition and how Chinese art has developed.



Karen Smith's courtyard seems like a small museum of contemporary Chinese art: full of paintings, sculptures and photos from many artists.

There is a small oil painting of her portrait by her desk, a gift from Liu Xiaodong, an influential artist in the contemporary scene.

The British-born critic does not share the solemn faces of her peers. She speaks with a soft voice and a warm smile. The rush of work in preparing for "Music to My Eyes" has left her tired.

It is the first exhibition in Fat Art, a series of large-scale interactive art shows created and established by Today Art Museum and Modern Sky.

The project was named after talking with the museum and the record label. "In English, we say 'music to my ears,' which means the music sounds good for me. If you are hungry and someone tells you 'let's go to eat,' you will feel it is what you want to hear. But in this exhibition, the music can be seen, so I call it 'music to my eyes,'" she says.

Smith is fascinated by the crossover, something more common when she was a student. She majored in oil painting at Wimbledon Art School in the UK, but exper-

imented with other media.

"It is different from Chinese art school. Our teachers encouraged students to make works in print, sculpture and installation," she says. But in China, an oil painting major will be allowed to study painting and only painting.

However, the situation is changing. The China Academy of Art in Hangzhou has a major for new media, and the students in it create works in multimedia, she says.

This exhibition is a way for both audience and artists to experience the joy of crossover.

Some artists cooperated with musicians. Zhang Yue, for example, made his video with Liu Yan, the saxophonist in Cui Jian's band. Liu composed the piece and played sax to match Zhang's video.

But the most amazing communication between art and music is Xu Ruotao's submission. Xu scanned one of his oil paintings and used software to convert the pixel positions and colors into audio waves, and from there into musical notation. A musician played the resulting score.

"When you see the painting, you will hear the music composed from it by the computer. I still have not heard it. Xu asked me to wait until the opening ceremony of the exhibition. I am really looking forward

to his work," Smith says.

Smith helps the artists explore the relationship between music and their works and sees that every piece admitted can surprise the audience.

She planned to come in 1987 when she graduated, but was delayed until 1992.

In the 1980s, there were only three options: She could be an exchange student, but she had already graduated. She could work here, but no jobs were available. She could visit, but a visitor could only stay for two weeks.

So she stopped in Japan and then went on to Hong Kong, where she researched local artists and worked at an art magazine.

When the Hanart TZ Gallery opened its exhibition of "China's New Art, Post-1989," Smith saw works from the mainland that rekindled her interest.

The first artists she saw were Xu Bing and Gu Wenda, both known for their calligraphy.

After she came to Beijing, she studied Chinese at the Beijing Language and Culture University from 1992 to 1994. She visited the artists' studio, interviewed them and toured their exhibitions.

Although younger artists' works focus on the same topics – solitude and the ego – she still finds new artists around China. Ord-

inarily, the artistic works speak when she picks up the promising artists. But sometimes Smith believed the artists' characteristics are more important.

She saw Pei Li's work last year in Hangzhou. "She showed her work on a small television screen. The quality was not good at all, but I found it interesting, especially after I talked with her. Her attitude and character told me she has something to express," she says.

After the exhibition, Smith will continue to interview artists famous in the last decade for her next book. Her last book, *Nine Lives: The Birth of Avant-Garde Art in New China* (473pp, Timezone8, US \$50.00), covered artists between 1985 to 1989. But many of the best contemporary works did not appear until the 1990s.

Smith is planning another Fat Art exhibition series for 2010, though the theme remains unannounced.

Music to My Eyes

Where: Hall 3, Today Art Museum, 32 Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Daily, 10 am – 5 pm, April 17 – May 3

Tel: 5876 0600

Magic kingdom of Russian dance

By Charles Zhu

Classic Russian ballet is one of the most outstanding and soul-stirring arts in the world. It has had many great artists like Anna Pavlova and Tamara Karsavina, who showed marvelously keen musical sense and great interpretative power in handling Tchaikovsky's ballet.

Fans of Russian ballet can learn more about the form's zenith in the new English translation of Akim Volynsky's *Ballet's Magic Kingdom* (288pp, Yale University Press, US \$35). It is a collection of remarkably exquisite essays on dance in Russia in the early 20th century.

Volynsky, the son of Orthodox Jewish booksellers in the Ukraine, was a literary critic, journalist and art historian. He moved to Saint Petersburg at the age of 18 and became an authoritative ballet critic.

Forty of his articles are translated for this text by Stanley J. Rabinowitz, a professor of Russian studies at Amherst College, Massachusetts. This first Volynsky collection in English examines the careers and personalities of great dance artists at the peak of Russian ballet.

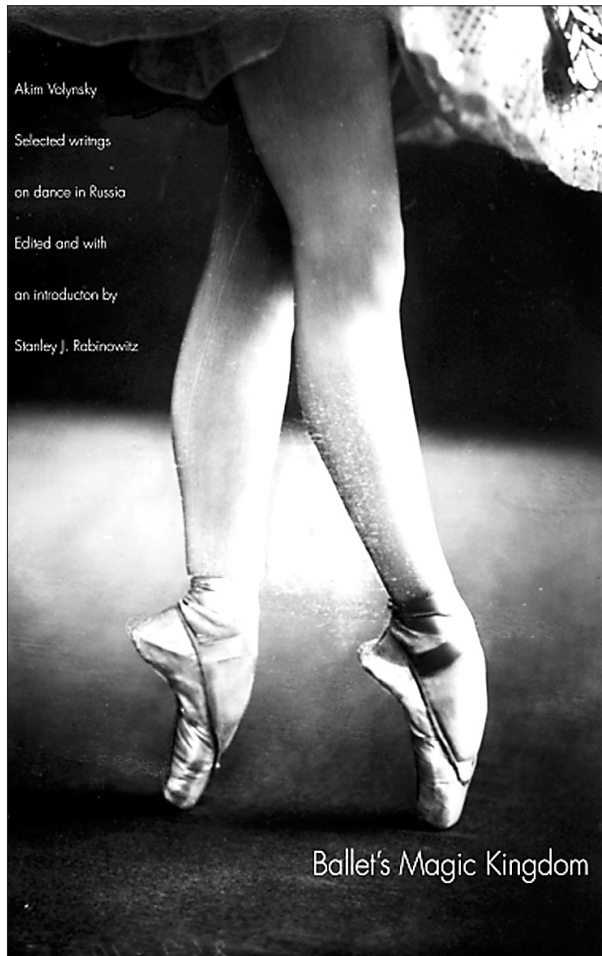
In marvelously elegant language and with complete ease, Volynsky sees Anna Pavlova as a talented ballerina who "speaks and sings in her dancing." "Her ebullient personality, full of fire and light, does not prevent her from magically falling

into the flow of the pure modern figures that flow one from the other with the same lightness and naturalness with which ideal similarities of mathematics conceptually grow and silently combine in their beautiful dance of elevated and looping truths," he writes.

The critic analyzes every excruciating detail of the ballerina: the shape of her feet, the structure of her leg and how her knees bend. "Onstage she flies at rapid speed up and down, obliquely, near the floor, against all logic, against all the laws of gravity, with her widely opened, dark brown eyes, in which fire burns," he writes.

Volynsky was immensely charmed by the thrill-packed performance of a young and unusually musical artist George Balanchivadze, who danced the buffoon in *The Nutcracker*. In his energetically expressed and folksy rhythm he sees the birth of a great dancer. "He stands in the hoop slantwise, in profile to the audience, and totally sparkles in the silvery design of his costume. His face is deathly pale from agitation. The youth is tall and full of wild intensity. He waves the hoop and tosses it under his feet. Then he encircles himself with it and rushes downward like a hurricane," he writes.

Volynsky has a uniquely



poetic idea about women in his essays. He thinks of women as "a botanical creature," through whom an "invisible aquatic element flows."

A case in point is Olga Spessivtseva, "the weeping spirit." He writes she "is a talent completely harmo-

nious, balanced and consummate in its appearance, which is where all its wealth has gone Her gentle, slightly protuberant forehead – somewhat in the spirit of Carlo Dolci – is feminine and charming, like an oval of a delicate plant."

Meet the best artists you never heard of

By He Jianwei

Most of the big names of contemporary Chinese art are familiar to Western collectors. But these big names were born by the early 1970s. There are many up-and-coming young artists eager to export their works – and they are entirely unlike their predecessors.

Three people from Europe surveyed the new artists and selected 30 for *Young Chinese Artists: The Next Generation* (edited by Christoph Noe, Xenia Piech and Corde- lia Steiner, 296pp, Prestel USA, €39).

"The book sold out when it was published in Germany last year," Noe said last Saturday at the book's launch at Ullens Center for Contempo-



rary Art.

Noe started the project a year ago with a list of 300 young Chinese artists born between 1975 and 1981: he and the other editors whittled it down to 30 names. Noe said he hopes the reader can learn more about

"this new generation of artists and citizens."

The 30 artists portray the country's economic and social transformation in an endless variety of ways; they condense the era's special characteristics and what it means for China and the individual.

Noe, Piech and Steiner interviewed the artists face to face and via instant messages, email and phone. The book details the representative works of each artist and gives a window into his and her past with short profiles written by a team of international art critics.

"Individualism, self-exploration and existential issues can be seen as the most prevalent themes in

these young artists' works – a reflection and visualization of the increasing awareness of the individual and his or her personal concerns," Noe said.

The book's experts share their views on urbanization, business, relationships, love and sex, lifestyle, status, health, sport and communication.

But it is only an overview, and the authors said they hope to make books for each artist in the future.

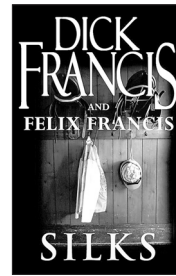
Noe and Steiner founded The Ministry of Art in 2005, an organization devoted to helping young Chinese artists establish an international platform. Piech is an art critic and expert on contemporary Chinese art in Beijing.

Pan Macmillan Asia book listing

Pan Macmillan Asia recommends the following upcoming books to *Beijing Today* readers. Find them at the Bookworm, Chaterhouse or Beijing Foreign Language Bookstore from next month.

Silks

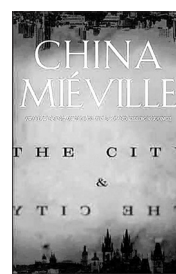
By Dick Francis, Felix Francis, 432pp, Pan Macmillan, £ 6.99



After collaborating on *Dead Heat* (2007), bestseller Francis and his son, Felix, deliver another gripping thriller with a thoroughbred racing backdrop. London barrister Geoffrey Mason, an amateur jockey, starts receiving a series of threatening messages from former client Julian Trent whose conviction for assault was overturned on appeal. Soon after, Mason reluctantly accepts the defense of a jockey, accused of the pitch-fork murder of fellow rider at a steeplechase event. When unknown parties order Mason to lose the case, he must balance his professional ethics and his sense of self-preservation.

The City & The City

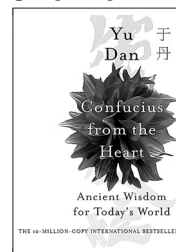
By China Mieville, 320pp, Pan Macmillan, £ 10.99



When the body of a murdered woman is found in the extraordinary, decaying city of Beszel, somewhere at the edge of Europe, it looks like a routine case for Inspector Tyador Borlu of the Extreme Crime Squad. But as he probes, the evidence begins to point to conspiracies far stranger, and more deadly, than anything he imagined. His work puts him and those he cares for in danger. Borlu must travel to the only other metropolis on Earth as strange as his own.

Confucius from the Heart

By Yu Dan, 197pp, Zhonghua Book Company, 50 yuan



It began as a series of television lectures which took China by storm, propelling Yu Dan, a professor at the School of Arts and Media at Beijing Normal University, to the top of the bestseller lists. Yu blows away the cobwebs of thousands of years of academic study on Confucius's thought and takes him back to the ordinary man. Her interpretation of Confucius reveals the secrets that he has to impart – secrets that can help us to stay grounded, to understand the hectic modern world we live in and our place in it, and to help us live richer, fuller lives.

(By Zhang Dongya)

Move over Batman, we're breaking camp



③

By He Jianwei

People around the country are proving it's not just super heroes who spend their nights perched atop metropolitan high rises.

The curious practice of pitching a tent atop a rotting factory or high-rise apartment has been gaining popularity in the last two years, and there are already dedicated urban camping clubs in several major cities.

CFP Photos

Wild way to unwind

By day, the campers are office workers dressed in suits and leather shoes; by night, they sleep in a tent.

These Chongqing and Shanghai residents coordinate over the Internet and work together to scout new camping destinations.

In Shanghai, a women's camping club organized by office ladies had fewer than 10 members two years ago. The members would look down over the sleeping city from their rooftops. It was a chance to get away from reality for a moment, Helene Zhao, a PR officer, says.

Zhao graduated seven years ago, and her office life quickly became routine. "Camping was a way to strip away the pressure, but it wasn't possible for me to go camping in the suburbs like you would in a forest or on the beach," she says.

She joined the camping group last year when she heard about it online. "[Camping] does not just mean sleeping outside. We spend the night chatting and drinking in a quiet corner," she says.

Their group regularly breaks camp atop an abandoned factory on the Suzhou River to watch the ships shuttle up and down. "The occasional fog horns remind me of my childhood living near the river, and it gives me a moment to escape reality," she says.

In Chongqing, most campers are a little wealthier and are busy with their jobs as businessmen, doctors, government officers and financial workers. But stuffy clothes aren't enough to snuff out their enjoyment of a night under the stars.

Urban exploration?

Zhao and her friends sometimes feel like rooftop performers. One of their earliest camp sites was a bar owned by one of the group members.

They pitched their tents on top of the bar, and everyone passing by on the street stopped to stare up at them like animals in the zoo.

Although the bar's wooden roof made a more comfortable floor than the old factory, they found the outing was missing something: the beautifully decayed wooden stairs and the crunching of rusty doors.

"In front of us was a river and behind us were hundreds of high buildings with twinkling lights. The space we camped in was like a paradise in the city," she says.

She remembers one night before a typhoon. Although its full force never arrived, the strong winds whipped their hair and set the night's mood as it carried in the briny scent of sea air.

Misunderstood hobby

Zhao's parents do not agree with her new hobby. "They said 'You are crazy.' In their eyes, a woman has no business sleeping under the stars," she says.

She worries about their misunderstanding, but still respects their view.

Her fellow group member Rachel Li is no luckier.

Li lives in Chengdu, Sichuan Province not far from her parents. She kept her new hobby a secret for months because she knew her parents would not be happy to hear she was sleeping on rooftops. The security personnel also had a hard time understanding

why the women wanted to sleep on top of abandoned buildings.

Last summer, when Li and the others went on their first outing, the security guards reported them to the police. Officers and firemen arrived at 1 am, arrested the women, and took them to the station for questioning. They were released after it was clear there was a misunderstanding.

Zhao says there are two reasons no one camps in the city: the first is these kinds of

misunderstandings, and the second is that city camp sites can be dangerous if approached willy-nilly.

Safety first

Expert campers know every trip begins with research. Before setting off, they learn what they can about their destination and review possible risks.

"If we are not familiar with a campsite then we will not stay there," Zhao says.

She says she hopes the municipal government will establish camp zones so new campers can have a safer first outing.

Some apartment owners are willing to make their roofs available to campers, she says.

① Women's camping club in Shanghai is organized by office ladies.

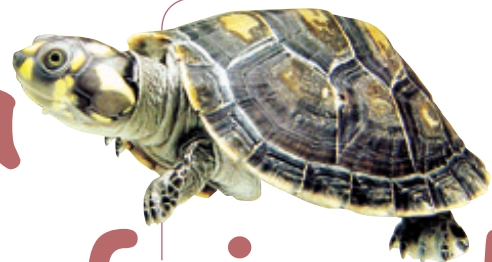
② Campers in Chongqing are a wealthier and are busy with their jobs.

③ Abandoned factories make great camping destinations.

Necessary equipment

Wind and waterproof tent
Sleeping bag
Moisture resistant inflatable mat
Electric flashlight or lamp
Food and drink

Find yourself a faithful little friend



By Zheng Lu

Pets are more than cute and cuddly playmates. They can provide hands-on practice to newlyweds who are thinking of having a child; their company can alleviate the loneliness of people who live alone; and their antics can help prevent depression or heart disease among the elderly.

Read on for a list of shops where you might find your new best friend.



Photos by Zheng Lu

Picking your Totoro from over a hundred chinchillas

Chinchillas, rodents the size of a large squirrel, have become sought after since the release of the anime film *My Neighbor's Totoro*. Do not think of the animal as just a big rat; the merits of having a chinchilla cannot be easily matched.

The animal is relatively clean; it does not have a bad odor or carry parasites like most mammals do. Chinchillas love to take baths in volcanic ash – but they can survive without it. Owners appreciate the animal's meekness and quietness. It is also a clever creature with a good memory, and can be taught tricks. A chinchilla's average life span is around 15 years, so the friendships it forges with humans do last long.

The Chinchilla Beijing Specialty Shop, which opened four years ago, specializes in breeding the rodents. The shop assistants appear to have a good rapport with the animals; the chinchillas respond when called. Unlike other pet shops, this one allows customers to touch and hold the creatures. It is difficult to describe the sensation of petting a chinchilla; it is like touching a soft and silky fur ball.

Chinchillas at the store cost from 600 to 5,000 yuan. The white and the colored ones cost more than the grey ones because of their rarity. New owners are advised to buy the grey chinchillas as they are healthier than the colored ones, which are the result of artificial breeding.

Chinchilla Beijing Specialty Shop – Guanyuan

Where: 95-96, Section 4, Guanyuan Wuzhou Huaniaoyuchong Market, Xicheng District

Open: 10 am to 5:30 pm

Tel: 6616 5509

Chinchilla Beijing Specialty Shop – Shilihe

Where: 14 Shilihe Huasheng Tianqiao Wenhucheng, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am to 5:30 pm

Tel: 8736 6404



Grow old with a tortoise

Ruan Tortoise Shop sells around 20 types of tortoises; the owner himself, Ruan Shijing, has been a tortoise fan for more than two decades. Most of the turtles at the shop are water-dwellers, so they need to be immersed in a pool of warm water all the time. Land tortoises, on the other hand, need to live in a greenhouse.

Tortoises can live from 20 to 100 years, so you can possibly pass on your pet to your grandchildren. The creatures cost from 70 yuan to a few thousand, but customers can bargain.

Consult the shopkeepers how best to take care of the animal, since only 20 percent of tortoises that become ill survive. The owner Ruan suggests treating water in the tortoise tank before putting in the animal; Beijing's water may be too dirty for the creatures.

Ruan Tortoise Shop

Where: 93 Guanyuan Huaniaoyuchong Market, Xicheng District

Open: 9:30 am to 5:30 pm

Tel: 13621139607

Take home a bunny cuter than cartoons

Coco Pet Shop is where rabbit lovers can meet their dream bunny. The shop has about 10 different kinds of rabbits – lop-eared rabbits, the Netherland Dwarf and

are less than two months old. Their price ranges from 100 to more than 800 yuan. The most important consideration when choosing a rabbit is its health; energy and bright eyes are good signs. Rabbits usually live for eight years. The bunnies at Coco have been vaccinated, but they need follow-up vaccines every six months.

The shop also sells Danish martens, animals that belong to the weasel family. Since martens have long been domesticated, there is little danger of them biting people. The creatures, which live as long as 12 years, cost 1,900 yuan.

Coco Pet Shop

Where: 69-3 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 10 am to 9 pm

Tel: 8401 8650

long-haired ones that look like a mop. Be careful you do not get overwhelmed by their cuteness and buy them all.

It is best to buy bunnies that

Reptiles are actually cool pets

The pet store could almost be a small amphibian and reptile zoo. Boxes containing turtles, lizards, snakes occupy every surface of the shop.

Cheng Kai, the shop owner who has a degree in zoology, said that among the species he sells, only the arthropods will not recognize their owners. He said even lizards and snakes can develop a relationship with humans.

Lizards, which can live as long as five years, cost from 100 to 300 yuan. Salamanders,

which look like lizards but need to live in a humid environment, have a life span twice as long as a lizard's. They are also a couple of hundred yuan more expensive.

A young albino python, measuring only a few inches, has a price tag of 700 hundred yuan and can grow to more than one meter. Cheng said people should not touch the snake while it is feeding because it may attack.

The shop also sells sea toads that can grow into the size of a puppy – the world's biggest

toad species. It costs 800 yuan and needs to live in a warm and humid environment.

Insect fans can come here to look for a pet. Beetles cost 150 yuan a pair, while scorpions are 150 yuan each. Beetles only survive a few months, leaving dozens of young beetles, but scorpions can live more than 10 years.

The Amphibian Shop

Where: 69-132 Guanyuan Huaniaoyuchong Market, Xicheng District

Open: 11 am – 6 pm

Tel: 13810278185

By Zhao Hongyi

Beijing offers a smorgasbord of international dishes, including Bangladeshi cuisine, which few people may be familiar with. Some diners will probably think of curry, kebabs and lassi, a drink consisting of flavored yogurt or buttermilk, but there's more to Bangladeshi food than that.

Those who want to experience the flavors of the South Asian nation can visit Chingari and Tamarind, two restaurants in town that serve Bangladeshi food.

The restaurants, owned by a Bangladeshi who became a successful businessman in the US, expect to open more branches in other cities as a way to introduce Bangladesh's cuisine and culture.

A taste of Bangladesh

Chingari

Chingari means "spark" in Bengali. It is located on the top floor of a building near the Donghu Villas, a stone's throw away from the Sanlitun diplomatic compound. Two elevators bring customers to a deck with a nice view of the surrounding area.

Upon entering Chingari, guests will be enveloped by the scent of spices, sweets and milk. The smell, mixed with the fragrance of incense, has a relaxing and comforting effect.

The decor transports diners to the Indian subcontinent: A large part of the ceiling is covered by a handmade shamiana, a circus-style tent used for outdoor entertaining or weddings. There is also a stage where traditional South Asian songs and dances are performed every night.

Chicken tandoori (50 yuan, two pieces) is a traditional South Asian dish. The chicken is first marinated in yogurt and seasoned with tandoori masala, a mixture of spices including garam masala, garlic, ginger, cumin and cayenne pepper. Then, the

meat is cooked in a tandoori oven, a clay oven with a charcoal or wood fire.

Pawan Kumar, the restaurant's manager, said lamb vindaloo (55 yuan) is popular among their largely Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani customers. Pieces of lamb are cooked in a pot big enough to feed 10, and flavored with vindaloo sauce, a mixture of tomato, curry, garlic, wine and onion.

Vegetable jhalfrezi (30 yuan) is a typical South Asian vegetable dish, a mix of seasonal vegetables cooked with peppers, onion, tomato and long beans in spicy vinegar sauce.

Chingari offers a lunch buffet everyday; a bargain at 39 yuan for a choice of 15 dishes and a glass of beer or soft drink. The restaurant also does catering and home delivery.

Chingari Restaurant

Where: 27 Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District
Tel: 8448 3690
Web site: chingari-restaurant.com
Cost: Starting at 50 yuan per person

Lamb Vindaloo



Naan

Tamarind

The tamarind is a tropical fruit commonly found in South Asian food. The restaurant, named after the fruit, opened last year to cater to office workers in the Shangdu SOHO area.

The small interior has contemporary decor, and unlike Chingari, Tamarind does not feature live singing and

dancing. Instead, it has a screen that shows Indian music videos.

Tamarind offers the same dishes available at Chingari. But Tamarind's edge over its sister restaurant is that it has more dishes convenient for people to take away.

Samosa (10 yuan) is a fried crispy triangle with mildly spiced fillings like beef or vegetables. It is one of the restaurant's most popular dishes for both dine-in and carry-out.

The restaurant also offers various types of rice, a staple on the Indian subcontinent. Vegetable pilaff (35 yuan) is made of Basmati rice, a long grain noted for its fragrance, and cooked with potatoes, carrots, cauliflower and peas. Basmati rice comes in either white or brown rice.

Curried mutton biryani (55 yuan) consists of curried mutton with Basmati rice and Mughlai spices.

Mulligatawny (20 yuan) is a popular soup that contains chicken or seafood boiled with vegetables.

As for seafood, Tamarind has fish tikka masala (50 yuan), boneless fish cooked with Indian spices and prawn do piaza (75 yuan), prawn with tomato, onion and spicy sauce.

The restaurant also has a good selection of bread and pies. Garlic naan (12 yuan) is a plain pastry coated with chopped garlic and butter. Vegetable-stuffed paratha (15 yuan) is a type of flat bread with vegetable fillings.

The restaurant offers set lunches to office employees in a rush: beef curry (27 yuan), vegetable curry (22 yuan), chicken karhai (25 yuan), mutton palak (31 yuan) and palak paneer (24 yuan).

Tamarind Beijing

Where: B1-161, North Tower, SOHO Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 5900 1226
Web Site: tamarindchina.com
Cost: Starting at 50 yuan per person



Chicken Tandoori
Photos provided by Chingari



Naan Roll



Curried Mutton Biryani



Pawan Kumar
Photo by Zhao Hongyi

'We are family'

Pawan Kumar, who comes from India and manages Chingari Restaurant, spoke to *Beijing Today* about Bangladeshi cuisine.

BJ Today (BJT): It's surprising that an Indian guy is managing a Bangladeshi restaurant.

Pawan (P): We have the same food and diet in

India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka – the Indian subcontinent – therefore it's not strange at all.

BJT: Aren't there differences among the cuisines as they represent different countries?

P: Bengalis (Bangladeshis) cook more with fish, both fresh and sea water fish

like the hilsa, which is prepared in various spices.

BJT: Why did the owner open restaurants in Beijing rather than New York, London or Tokyo?

P: Maybe it's because our food is already quite popular in those places, while it is still rare here. Another factor, I think, is the

market here.

BJT: How can you guarantee your restaurant provides authentic Bangladeshi food?

P: Our chefs come from Bangladesh. Unfortunately, they cannot speak English or Chinese, otherwise they could explain their dishes. Also, we purchase our

spices, rice and nuts from the subcontinent.

BJT: What kind of reception have you received from local diners?

P: Our customers come from all walks of life. We have a big number of Muslim customers, including those from Southeast Asian countries.

Discrimination is like raindrops of needles

By Venus Lee

A cluster of needles hanging from the ceiling come into sight the moment visitors step into Vanessa Art Link Beijing, where an exhibition, "Surviving Memories" by Indonesian artist FX Harsono, is being held.

The female body and needles are the images central to this collection of Harsono's work. In his art, needles are no longer sewing tools but lethal weapons. These sticks of metal become huge weapons that elicit terror and bring about death.

The limp women he presents in bridal dress lying under raindrops of needles represent two things: beauty, youth and purity on the one hand, and objects of violence or targets that must be hurting on the other.

Harsono said the idea of rain falling came to him following the riots against ethnic Chinese people in Jakarta in May 1998. "The several days' riots almost became an entirely anti-Chinese campaign, which triggered violence towards the ethnic Chinese minority. In particular, a number of women of Chinese descent experienced violence, abuse and brutal rape. Gang

rape even occurred in public view," said Harsono who is himself ethnic Chinese.

The riots cast a shadow over Chinese Indonesians in the country, so Harsono made the discrimination against them the subject of his works. He said the terror and discomfort among those who are identified as "other" still continues, so it is important to bring this out in

the open.

"I've been feeling unsafe and uncomfortable for a long time, not because of the terror of bombs, but because of the discrimination that I have experienced. These acts of discrimination are not always on a grand scale; they are often very petty, but they are still annoying," he said. "It is as if discrimination has become a part of our daily lives, and even a part of

our dreams."

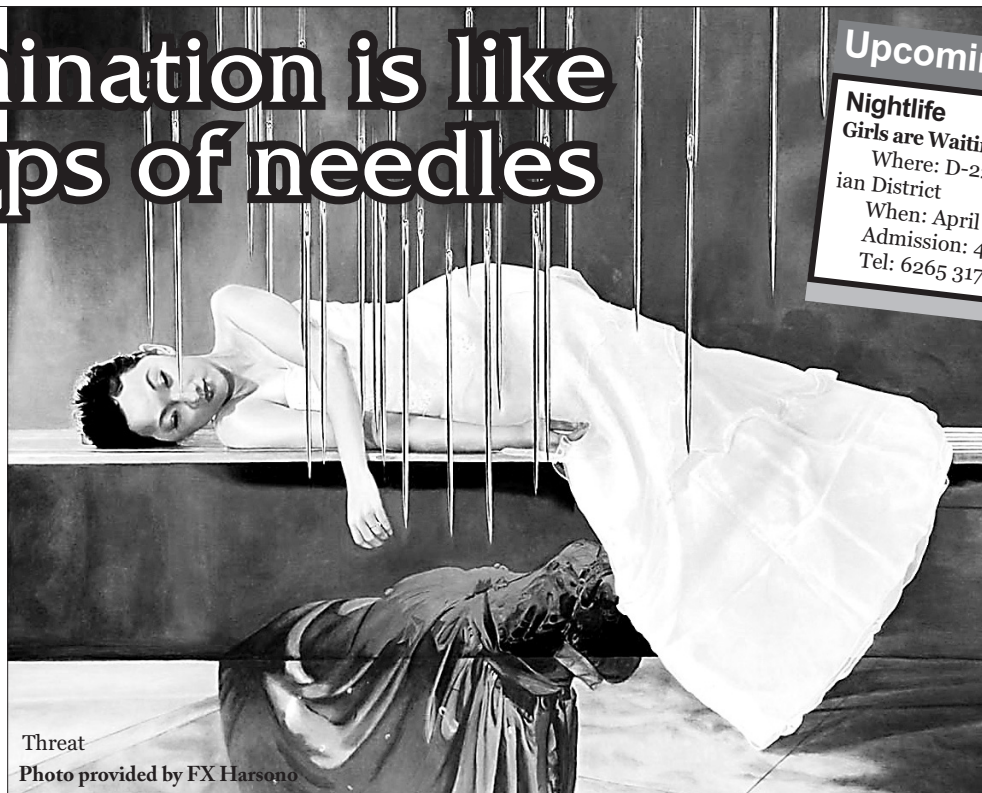
The exhibition also presents a 15-minute video which recounts the experience of a mother and son during the riots.

Surviving Memories

Where: Vanessa Art Link, 797 Dongjie, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until April 16
Tel: 5978 9525

Threat

Photo provided by FX Harsono



Upcoming

Nightlife

Girls are Waiting to Meet You
Where: D-22 Bar, 240 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District
When: April 17, 8 pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 6265 3177

Stage in May

Concert

Berlin and Vienna Philharmonic Soloists

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: May 1-2, 7:30 pm
Admission: 100-600 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

To Meet Haydn - Fu Cong Piano Recital

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), Dongcheng District
When: May 3, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-880 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

The Chanticleer Choir

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: May 6, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-380 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

China Philharmonic Orchestra Commemorates Haydn

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), Dongcheng District
When: May 16, 7:30 pm
Admission: 50-680 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

China Philharmonic Orchestra Symphony Concert 2008-2009 Season

Where: Beijing Music Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Liubukou, Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: May 23, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-880 yuan
Tel: 6605 7006

Opera

Puccini's La Boheme

Who: Directed by Chen Xinyi
Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: May 1-4, 7:30 pm
Admission: 100-680 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Dance

The Peony Pavilion

Who: China National Ballet
Where: Tianqiao Theater, 21 Beiwei Lu, Tianqiao, Xuanwu District
When: May 1-3, 7:30 pm
Admission: 50-600 yuan
Tel: 8315 6337

Firebird Premiere & Classic Ballet Selections

Who: China National Ballet
Where: Beijing University Centennial Memorial Hall, 5 Yiheyuan Lu, Haidian District
When: May 8-9, 7 pm
Admission: 20-280 yuan
Tel: 6275 1278

Thumbelina

Who: St. Petersburg State Children's Ballet
Where: Mei Lanfang Grand Theater, 32 Ping'anli Xi Dajie, Xicheng District
When: May 29, 2:30 pm; 4 pm
Admission: 80-580 yuan
Tel: 5833 1288

5

Friday, April 10

Exhibition Between Peking and Taipei

Where: Dehouyuan, 246 Chengfu Lu,

Haidian District
When: Until April 12, 11 am - 8 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6256 2501

Crystallized

Where: Beijing Center for the Arts, 23 Qianmen Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: Until April 12, 10 am - 10 pm (Only reservations accepted on Mondays)
Admission: Free
Tel: 6559 8008

No Fun without You

This exhibit by young

contemporary artists presents paintings with two faces; behind the lively and joyful scenes lies melancholy. People in the paintings seem lost in thought, a shadow of loneliness can be seen in their eyes.

Where: Amelie Gallery, 797 East Street, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 10, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9698

No Trace - Xie Guoping's First Solo Exhibition

Where: Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen Watchtower, Chongwenmen Dong Dajie, Chongwen District

When: Until April 30, 10 am - 5 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 6525 1005



Movie Paris

Where: Bailigong Cinema, 88 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District

When: 2 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 8522 1977

6

Saturday, April 11

Exhibition What Has Been Happening Here?

This is the inaugural exhibit of the Chinese Independent Film Archive.

Where: Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, E06, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until April 19, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9530

Origin of a Journey

Where: Today Art Museum, 9 Wenhuiyuan Bei Lu, Haidian District

When: Until April 20, 10 am - 5 pm
Admission: 10 yuan

Tel: 6221 7711
Between the Sexes



Man-woman relationships are the central theme of this exhibit, in which participating photographers direct amusing "battles" between the sexes. No matter whether shot by a male or female photographer, the women are always the protagonists.

Where: Paris-Beijing Photo Gallery, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Cha-

oyang District
When: Until May 30, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9262

Nightlife

Great Wall Swing Out

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm
Admission: 70 yuan
Tel: 6404 2711

Movie

The Edge of Freedom (Zi You De Bian Yuan)

Where: Weiboziyuan Club, 2308 (3/F), North building, SOHO Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 3 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5900 0969

Sunday, April 12

Exhibition In Search of Lost Time

French artist Marianne Daquet presents an artistic cocoa project in collaboration with Comptoirs de France bakeries. This exhibit celebrates the encounter of the creative worlds of contemporary artists and chocolatiers.

Where: Comptoirs de France, East Lake Villas, 35 Dongzhimen Wai Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: Until June 11, 3-8 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 13911317192

Self-Preservation

Where: Magee Art Gallery, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until June 7, 10 am - 6 pm
Tel: 5978 9034

Telling Stories

Where: Mizuma & One Gallery, 241-15, Caochangdi, Cuige-zhuang, Chaoyang District
When: Until May 17, 10 am - 6 pm (Only reservations accepted on Mondays and Tuesdays)
Admission: Free
Tel: 5127 3267

Nightlife

Buyi Band

Where: D22 Bar, 240 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District
When: 9 pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6265 3177

Zhang Ming's Harmonica Blues

Where: Weiboziyuan Club, 2308 (3/F), North building, SOHO Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 9 pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 5900 0969

(By Jackie Zhang)

Hold the beer, red face a cancer signal

By Han Manman

Alcohol is a known risk factor for esophageal and other cancers: heavy drinkers are at the greatest risk.

But people whose faces are quick to turn red may need to curb their impulse to ganbei, doctors say. According to a report issued by Japanese and American doctors, a red face after a little as half a bottle of beer may be a warning about esophageal cancer in East Asians.



CFP Photo

'Asian flush' a cancer risk

About one-third of Chinese, Japanese and Korean people have an enzyme deficiency that causes their face to flush when they drink: a trait that elevates their risk of developing esophageal cancer, according to a study conducted by Philip Brooks of the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and Akira Yokoyama from the Kurihama Alcohol Center in Japan.

Brooks says the flushing response occurs in people who have a variant version of the gene that helps the body metabolize alcohol. People who have two copies of the variant gene will experience flushing, nausea and heart palpitations when they drink; the effects are uncomfortable enough that many avoid drinking. Those with one copy of the gene can tolerate alcohol, though they are

still at risk of esophageal cancer.

"In general, people with one copy have a six to tenfold increase in the incidence of esophageal cancer," Brooks says, adding, "People are fairly well aware of this physical characteristic, which is sometimes called the Asian alcohol response or the Asian flush."

"But I don't think people are aware that it is a warning sign for being at risk of esophageal cancer when they drink alcohol," Brooks says.

Brooks recommends doctors ask East Asian patients whether they have a history of facial flushing when they drink alcohol, and warns that health professionals need to be aware of the link.

He says curbing binge drinking habits can significantly reduce the incidence of esophageal cancer among Asian adults.

Pale face no better

Although there is no specific research about the potential health risks linked with a face that pales after drinking, doctors warned this may also be a warning signal.

"I always turn as white as a sheet of paper after having just one or two drinks. I'm Asian, too, so it's weird that I have the exact opposite of an Asian flush," Jessica Chen, a 29-year-old woman, says. "My friends sometimes check my pulse to see if I'm still alive after drinking."

After she heard about how the Alcohol flush may be related to cancer, Jessica is worried her condition may also be a health issue.

"It happens because alcohol constricts your blood vessels, raising blood pressure and making blood flow less. It stands to reason some people would get pale if the blood was having a hard time getting places," Liu Zhuang, a doctor from Beijing Ditan hospital, says.

Liu says people who pale may be more susceptible to liver damage. She suggests they avoid drinking, or drink less if they have high blood pressure.

How to avoid a hangover

Before you drink:

Eat something that has vitamin B and C, such as fruit. If you are going to an after-hour party, you should eat an early dinner before you go to the party or eat while you drink. The fructose in foods will help absorb alcohol. Drinking milk will help slow down the absorption of alcohol.

Take vitamins B & C: Alcohol depletes nutrients from your body and vitamins will help you replace what you lose. Drinking orange juice, grapefruit juice and grape

juice will also help.

Know Your Body: If you had hangovers before, learn from your experience. Were you drinking dark liquor? Were you drinking different types of liquor all night? Were you drinking too fast? Try to analyze what your body can handle. Dark liquors or colorless liquors make some people feel sick. Some say alternating between beer, wine and spirits can cause a headache. What you drink matters less than how much you drink.

While you drink:

Drink Water: always order a cup of water when ordering an alcohol beverage. Water will help rehydrate your system. The more water you drink the better you will feel the next day.

Eat while you drink: Try to eat while you drink. Food will slow alcohol absorption and your drinking pace.

Order fruit cocktails: Fresh fruit juice will replace the vitamins that you lose while drink-

ing. If you know that you are not a big drinker, try cocktails with simple ingredients such as Rum and Orange Juice or Vodka and Cranberry Juice.

Watch your pace: Never drink too fast. Drink as slow as possible. When you feel you have had enough, you should stop drinking alcohol and switch to water. If the party goes longer than you expected, order some fruit juice.

After you drink:

Drink Water: before going to bed, drink water. Do not drink coffee. Coffee will only dehydrate you further.

Vitamins B & C: Take vitamins before going to bed.

Sleep: sleeping may be difficult because your body temperature is higher than usual. If you cannot sleep, drink more water. If you need to throw up, throw up. When you

wake up, drink more water and eat some fruits and try to go back to sleep.

If you still get a hangover, then you are not following all this advice. Think about what went wrong and what you forgot, and learn from your experience.

Drinking is supposed to be fun: making an offering to the porcelain god is not.

Making your hangover even worse

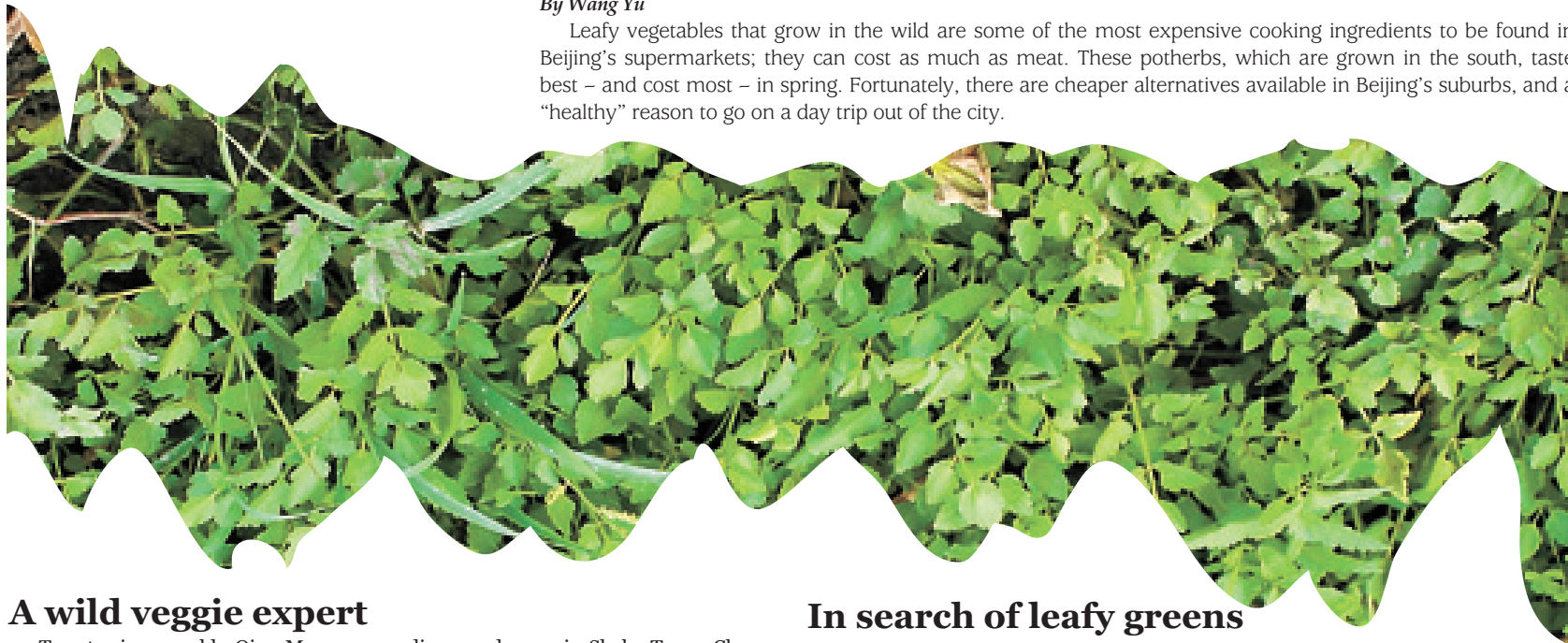
Doctor Liu says a lot of conventional hangover wisdom is rubbish.

"Many Chinese people prefer to drink strong tea after a hangover. There is no scientific basis for doing this. Strong tea will raise your blood pressure and intensify your headache," Liu says. "Showering after drinking is also a bad idea. It can cause your blood sugar levels to plummet. Someone with hypertension or cardiovascular disease could end up having a stroke," Liu says.

Digging out the flavor of spring

By Wang Yu

Leafy vegetables that grow in the wild are some of the most expensive cooking ingredients to be found in Beijing's supermarkets; they can cost as much as meat. These potherbs, which are grown in the south, taste best – and cost most – in spring. Fortunately, there are cheaper alternatives available in Beijing's suburbs, and a “healthy” reason to go on a day trip out of the city.



A wild veggie expert

Twenty-six-year-old Qin Mumu, a graphic designer in Beijing, grew up in Sichuan Province's countryside and knows how to make the most of wild greens.

After washing them, she finely chops the vegetables and mixes them with minced pork to make dumplings. “You can also make a salad with potherbs or cook them just like other vegetables,” Qin said. “The best time to eat them is from March to the middle of April. After that, the plants will start blossoming and will no longer be suitable for cooking.”

Experience has taught her where to find such vegetables now that she's living in the north. “Most potherbs grow in grasslands and cornfields. Some of them, like watercress, can be found on riverbanks,” she said.

During a recent trip to the suburbs, Qin

discovered some in Shahe Town, Changping District. “There are grasslands all around the town, in which a river runs through. It was enjoyable digging out the potherbs from the field with the sun shining warmly,” she said.

Gathering wild vegetables however is not as easy as it sounds. Qin said the plants should be dug out with their roots attached in order to keep them fresh. “And don't be afraid of getting the wrong plant. You usually only mistake grass, which is nontoxic, for potherbs.”

With a car, she and her friends did the trip in a day. But people who want to take in the countryside at a more leisurely pace can just as well stay the night. “There are local residences that double as lodging houses for travelers, and you can also go fishing in the river,” Qin said.

In search of leafy greens

Shahe

The town is located in southern Changping District, close to the Huilongguan residential community. Shahe is surrounded by grassland, thus it has plenty of wild leafy greens. The highway from central Beijing to the Ming Tombs and the Badaling Great Wall pass through it, so people who have been sightseeing the whole day can stop there for a nutritious dinner.

Shahe Reservoir, which forms a junction for the East Sha River, South Sha River and North Sha River, is a popular spot among photographers and bird watchers. About 189 species of birds can be seen there, including the Common Pheasant, Whooper Swan, Whistling Swan and Spot-billed Duck.

Getting there: Drive along Badaling

Highway, then take Xiaotangshan exit to reach the side road of Highway 110. Afterwards, turn right on Shunsha Lu. Alternatively, visitors can take Subway Line 10 to Jiandemen station, then get on Bus 670 to the Beijing Science Technology and Management College station (Keji Jingying Guanlixueyuan).



The Shahe Reservoir is also a great place for birdwatching. CFP photos



Many city dwellers travel to the suburbs on weekends to harvest potherbs.

Continued on page 21...

... continued from page 20

Puwa

Puwa, a town in Fangshan District 120 kilometers away from downtown Beijing, has long been a favorite for travelers seeking nature. The area is surrounded by mountains around 407 to 1,870 meters high, and has earned Puwa the nickname, "Beijing's little Tibet."

In Puwa's Qilidian village is a breeding and research center for wild vegetables, which in recent years has been providing supplies to markets in urban Beijing. The center is also open to people who want to buy vegetables "fresh from the earth."

After picking some greens, visitors can drop by Huatai scenic spot in Puwa's Dong Village, close to Highway 108. This is a great place to enjoy nature and to catch your breath before heading back home.

Getting there: Drive along Jingshi Highway, take Liulihe exit, then turn right at Shidu Lukou to reach Puwa. People who are taking public transportation should get on Bus 917 to Fangshan stop, then transfer to a shuttle bus to Puwa.

Yanchi

The scenic town, located in Mentougou District, draws hordes of visitors every weekend. The mountains around Yanchi have remained relatively unexplored and thus, retain their original look and vegetation.

This has become an ideal place for harvesting wild greens. Watercress, for instance, grows on the banks where the Yongding River and the Qingshui River meet.

Most of the villages in Yanchi can be found on banks of the Yongding River, which runs through the mountains. The river has over 30 tributaries that snake through the surrounding canyons, and that attracts many photographers.

Getting there: Drive along the West Fifth Ring Road, take the exit to Fushi Lu, then go into Highway 109 to reach Yanchi. People who are not driving should take Subway Line 1 to Nan Lishilu stop, then get on Bus 336 up to Sanjiadian Xikou. Here, they should switch to Bus 929, which will take them to Fujiatai.



Puwa, which is surrounded by mountains, is called "Beijing's little Tibet."



The mountains around Yanchi Town have remained relatively unexplored.

CFP photo

A meal and more

Fiddlehead

Fiddleheads are usually located at the bottom of a fern. Fiddleheads of certain ferns need to be cooked before eating to remove shikimic acid.

Purslane

This plant is known in Traditional Chinese Medicine as *machicai*, which is used to treat dysentery, as well as infections or bleeding of the genitourinary tract. The fresh herb may also be applied topically to relieve sores and insect or snake bites.

Shepherd's Purse

It is native to eastern Europe, but has become common in many parts of the world, especially in colder climates like Britain, North America and northern China. The plant also serves medicinal purposes like preventing measles.

Watercress

The watercress is one of the oldest known leafy vegetables that humans eat. It contains significant amounts of iron, calcium and folic acid, in addition to vitamins A and C. In some parts of the world, it is regarded as a weed, but in China, it is considered an aquatic vegetable and an herb.



... continued from last week



ClarkMorgan Corporate Training
Beijing Guangzhou Hong Kong Nanjing Shanghai Shenzhen Suzhou Tianjin
www.clarkmorgan.com admin@clarkmorgan.com Free call: 800 820 5501



By Mike Grigg

When a boss makes the decision alone, it becomes his or her sole responsibility to order people to participate, follow up on information and whip people into staying on track. Anyone who has made a decision alone can understand how difficult it is to persuade the group to go with it.

Worse though, is when they do not feel like they are a part of a decision that is going to affect them and they become dissidents. They become added weight – dragging the company along its path in an effort to slow it down; using vital resources and spreading negative energy.

While it does take a lot longer to come to a unanimous decision, the benefits outweigh the costs. It may be extending the hiring process to make sure the new person will be liked by existing employees. It may be taking two extra weeks to make sure you have introduced a new marketing idea.

Each person in the group has his own idea on “the best way to hike the mountain” or best way to achieve a goal. When each opinion is shared and the group decides on a course of action, everyone will happily contribute and support the final decision.

Unanimous decisions relieve managers of the physical and mental stress it takes to motivate people. Moreover, they help breed a culture

of synergy and a legacy of building high performance departments within the company.

The Unanimous Decision-Making style does not take much extra effort to implement and evaluate, but it takes persistence to sustain. In organizations where I have seen it successfully implemented, the process is like this: When anyone in the company, group, or department has an idea or a plan, they send an email to anyone that should be a part. At the meeting, the chair or host will present where the company is going and ask each participant to contribute his opinion. After each opinion, time is taken to address how that opinion can fit the overall plan. The chair or host hears the key points from each and adapts the plan. The plan is repeated and a vote is taken to see whether everyone can agree.

When the plan hits total agreement, it is started and each person works his or her hardest to make it a success.

Any idea that affects people within the company should allow people to be given an equal vote and a chance to participate in the decision. If they can agree, then the company will achieve its performance target and you and your team will be rewarded.

Mike Grigg is ClarkMorgan's Suzhou Corporate Training Manager



CFP Photo

Dining

Trios



Conquer the gridlock of Beijing's rush hour for a seducing triad of earth, sea and farm cuisine at Beijing's Premier Steakhouse.

Where: Trios, St. Regis Hotel, 21 Jiaoguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: Monday – Friday, 6–10 pm

Cost: 140 yuan net

Tel: 6460 6688 ext. 2711

Breaking Eggs at Agua



Let your kids go on an egg hunt on this sunlit rooftop garden while you enjoy an al fresco Easter lunch with three traditional Spanish courses and an exclusive Easter dessert.

Call early to reserve a terrace table overlooking the grand lawn.

Where: Agua Spanish Restaurant, 23 Qianmen Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: April 10–16 serving both lunch and dinner.

Cost: 388 yuan, 118 yuan for kid under six, subject to 10 percent service charge

Tel: 6559 6266

American Easter Dinner

Celebrate Easter with family and friends in the cozy surroundings of this modern American restaurant. Its delectable four-course dinner puts a unique spin on festive treats. Feast on Warm Spring Volute of English Pea, Pan Fried Foie Gras and Sliced Black Truffle Risotto, followed

by luscious Slow Roasted Veal with a Herbal Crust.

Where: One East, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: April 12

Cost: 320 yuan, free flow of wine for additional 160 yuan, plus 15 percent surcharge

Tel: 5865 5020



Hotel

The CRU Steakhouse

Food & Wine magazine recognized the CRU Steakhouse of JW Marriott Hotel last year as one of the Best 50 Restaurants in China. The Steakhouse is a paradise for meat and seafood lovers, serving up fine cuts of meat with a wide variety of seafood plucked fresh from the ocean.

Impressions of Chengdu

Shangri-La Hotel Chengdu has a new Impress-

sions of Chengdu package, which offers guests an opportunity to experience its legendary hospitality. The package includes two nights' single occupancy, one daily buffet breakfast, complimentary broadband Internet access, a toy panda and one-way transportation from the hotel to the Chengdu Panda Base and Jinli Street.

Where: Shangri-La Hotel Chengdu, 9 Binjiang Dong Lu, Chengdu

When: Until April 30

Cost: from 2,688 yuan,

subject to a 15 percent service charge

Tel: (86 28) 8888 9999

First Anniversary Room Package



To celebrate its first anniversary, the Grand Millennium Beijing has a new favorable room package. It

includes an upgrade to a Deluxe Room if available, daily breakfast for one, Internet service and free entrance to the Oxygen Club. This package cannot be used with other hotel promotions or a corporate contract rate.

Where: Grand Millennium Beijing, 7 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until April 12

Cost: 888 yuan, 100 yuan for an additional breakfast, subject to 15 percent service charge

Tel: 8587 6888 ext. 5888

Aviation

Smartboarding

Air France is asking its Flying Blue customers who frequently travel from Paris to Amsterdam to test its new automated boarding system, Smartboarding, through the end of this year. The new system uses a personal card with the latest biometric technology, RFID (radio frequency identification) and thermal printing. The back of the card can be reused up to 500 times. Passengers holding these cards will be able to board through a dedicated portal whenever they want.

New Packages



SriLankan Airlines is promoting two packaged trips: Visiting Charming SriLanka and Visiting SriLanka & Maldives. These packages provide new opportunities for Chinese tourists to enjoy the beautiful scenery. The Ayubowan Sri Lanka Leisure Package for Chinese tourists has been extended through the end of June.

Packages start from 5,988 yuan per person and include return air fare in Economy class. The price includes all taxes, airport transfers, accommodations in a star-class hotel, transport in an air-conditioned vehicle and an English-speaking chauffeur-guide. Chinese-speaking guides are available for parties of seven or more. Children get a discount.

(By Sun Feng)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

Trust me, I did not fly a kite



CFP Photo

By Zhang Dongya

Last week, I received a wedding invitation from one of my college classmates, Edison. He is marrying his long-time girlfriend Jojo, another classmate, next Saturday. The exciting news reminded me of their love story, which unfolded the year we graduated from university.

In school, aren't there certain people whose presence you never notice even if they're in the same classroom as you? Jojo was that kind of girl, too timid to catch other people's attention. But things changed in our senior year, when Jojo came back from a one-year exchange program in the US.

She became very warm and sociable, which made everyone look at her with new eyes. The new Jojo drew the attention of many people, including Edison, who became smitten with her.

Jojo however did not return Edison's feelings; she preferred another guy who belonged to a different circle. Edison was eaten by anxiety, not knowing how

to win Jojo, and afraid everything was too late.

It was around this time that I met Dave, an exchange student from the US who was quite close to Jojo. My friends and I convinced Dave to act as a "bridge" between Edison and Jojo; to put in a good word for Edison and to find out how things stood between Jojo and the other man.

One evening, Edison, Dave and I met at the cafe where we usually meet to chat.

"How are they doing?" the impatient Edison said as soon as we found seats.

"Well, I'm just flying a kite, but I suspect she's in love with him," Dave said.

Edison's face suddenly turned red. "Damn, I knew it!" Then he looked at Dave and said, "You might be in the perfect mood for kite-flying, but I don't have time to listen to it!" He stood up and stormed out of the place.

I was surprised at Edison's outburst and tried to console Dave, who looked hurt and bewildered.

"What's wrong with Edison?" he said. "And what did he mean by 'perfect mood'?"

"You just said you went to fly a kite. Edison probably felt hurt you were having a good time when you had such terrible news for him."

"Oh, oh ..." Dave slapped his forehead, "I didn't mean I really went kite-flying, why would I say that? What I meant was that I was suggesting a possible explanation for what's going on between Jojo and the guy!"

It was then that I realized both Edison and I misunderstood the idiom that Dave used. Edison later found out about the misunderstanding and felt terribly embarrassed.

A few months later, Jojo and the guy broke up. Edison patiently wooed her and they finally became a couple just before graduation. Well, you already know the ending: The prince and the princess will ride off into the sunset next Saturday.

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly mis-used by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. White hair girl

The formulation of the attributive is wrong in light of Standard English. Though a noun can serve as an attributive, in this case it should be "white-haired," composed of an adjective and a noun affixed with "-ed" or the past participle form of the verb. For the former, you have "green-eyed," "white-skinned," "gentle-mannered," "kind-hearted," "black-covered." For the latter, there is "thickly-clad," "severely-burned" "deeply-dyed." You can also have a combination of an adjective and a verb's past participle, for example, "deep-fried," "soft-spoken," "white-washed."

2. Ageing orphan population

It should be "aging," not "ageing." Some English words like "age," "come" and "arrive" lose the final letter "e" in their present participle form: "aging," "coming" and "arriving." There are others however that retain the final "e," like the verb "dye." Its present participle is "dyeing," as in the sentence, "People have to tackle the pollution that results from the dyeing process." You will have to commit to memory which words follow which rule.

3. Choose to artificial insemination

The verb "to choose" is transitive, thus it needs a direct object. "Choose artificial insemination" is the correct way of writing the sentence. I think the writer was confused with some other sentence forms where a verb is followed by "to." Take these examples: "He is committed to social service" and "He is devoted to ancient architecture." You have to learn to differentiate between the cases that use and do not use "to."

Native speaker: Penny Turner

1. White hair girl

Professor Zhu gave useful tips in handling attributives, since the English language is liberally sprinkled with such word-matches. For words that end in "-ly" however, the Associated Press Stylebook says there does not need to be a hyphen between them and the word that follows. "No hyphen is required with 'very' and '-ly' words. Readers can expect them to modify the words that follows," according to the book considered the "journalists' bible." So some of the examples above can be written as "thickly clad," "severely burned" and "deeply dyed." But "white hair girl" should definitely be rewritten as "white-haired girl."

2. Ageing orphan population

The first time I encountered "ageing" in a newspaper article, I did a double take. I have always known the word to be spelled as "aging." But a check with Merriam-Webster's Dictionary showed that "ageing" is indeed a variant of "aging," and is chiefly a British usage. It is much like the British spelling of "organisation" and "verbalise" versus the American "organization" and "verbalize."

3. Choose to artificial insemination

I agree with Professor Zhu's diagnosis and prescription for this sentence. If the writer wants to keep the verb "choose to," the sentence will have to be redone as "choose to undergo artificial insemination."

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Advantageous noodle

By Tiffany Tan

This is an interesting way to look at "instant noodles." But come to think of it, instant noodles do give whoever eats them an advantage. You can slurp them in a taxi while you're rushing to get to work on time; they can give you relief from

midnight hunger pangs when there's nothing edible in the refrigerator; and they are the primary food responsible for extending the life of those who cannot cook. Now for the disadvantages ... I guess they can just as well be called "disadvantageous noodle."

2	威士忌	Whisky	50.00
2	啤酒	Beer	10.00
2	矿泉水	Water	10.00
2	可口可乐	Coca Cola	10.00
2	雪碧	Sprite	10.00
2	纯牛奶	Pure Milk	10.00
2	杏仁露	Almond juice	10.00
2	方便面	Advantageous noodle	10.00
6	干果	Cashews pistachios	30.00
2	巧克力	Chocolate	20.00
3	润喉糖	Gum	25.00
总数			

Photo provided by chinglish.de



Movie of the week

After *Sin City* and *300*, Frank Miller, the master of comics, donned the director's hat to make this movie based on one of his classic comics. But this time it wasn't the hit people were expecting. To most viewers, the movie seems like a joke, and even Miller's unique style was not enough to patch all the story holes in this film. *Spirit* is not just the title of the film: it is what it is missing. But that will not stop it from becoming a cult hit. The stars Scarlett Johansson, Samuel L. Jackson and Sarah Paulson all gave great performances. Their acting did a bit to save a poor script, but hopefully Miller learns a lesson from *The Spirit* and does better with *Sin City 2*, due to hit theaters next year.

Synopsis

A hero is born, murdered and born again. When a rookie cop is brutally killed and mysteriously brought back to life, he assumes the guise of The Spirit, a masked crime fighter who prowls the shadows of Central City on a supernatural mission to keep the urban landscape safe. Upon discovering that his arch-nemesis, The Octopus, is determined to live forever – even if it means wiping out the entire population of Central City – The Spirit must stop the diabolical villain from achieving his cold-blooded plan.

Scene 1

(*The Spirit is preparing for his mission as he describes Central City in a voice-over.*)

The Spirit (S): My city. She's always there for me. Every lonely night, she's there for me. She's not some **tarted-up (1)** fraud all dressed up like a piece of jailbait. No. She's an old city – old and proud of her every pock and crack and wrinkle. She's my sweetheart, my plaything. She doesn't hide what she is, what she's made of. Sweat, muscle and blood of generations. She sleeps. After midnight and until dawn, only shadows move in the silence.

Damn, I've got no time for this. My city screams. She needs me. She is my love. She is my life. And I am her spirit.

Scene 2

(*The Spirit is chasing The Octopus, the city's most notorious criminal. After a fight, one police officer is killed and the hero argues with his old superior Sergeant Dolan.*)

Sergeant Dolan (D): You find anything?

S: No, sir. I'm just feeling dizzy from all the action, I guess.

D: Yeah, we're all damn impressed.

S: Thanks.

D: You're doing this town no good with your **hot-dogging (2)**.

S: I don't follow you.

D: We're just **flat on our asses (3)** happy to clean up after your god-

damn **dog and pony show (4)**.

S: Not this again. You know the score.

D: I thought I did. Go ahead and enlighten me. **Bring me up to speed (5)**.

S: Sussman wanted things kept quiet. Leave it at that. All right?

D: What? He thinks I don't run a **tight ship (6)**?

S: He was worried and suspected a leak in your department. Didn't want the Octopus getting away.

D: So you're internal affairs now, huh? I must have missed that memo.

S: Come on, it was a judgment call. I gave it my best shot.

D: You blew it. Now I got one officer an inch from dying, another, his head yanked off ... all because you **went off half-cocked (7)** after The Octopus.

S: You're damn right I'm going after The Octopus!

D: And you're going through my men like toilet paper. It's obsession.

S: You been to Dropsie Avenue and see lately? Have you seen those girls? Some just learning how to ride a bike, there they are, selling their souls day and night ... slaves to the Octopus and his poison. Maybe you and your force could use a little obsession, Dolan. Maybe you and your force could work a little harder.

D: Ellen's right. You're **off your rocker (8)**, talking about cops like that.

S: Maybe if you and your force could find the Octopus I wouldn't have to play it solo.

D: Solo, huh? Solo? That wasn't

our deal, hotshot.

S: Well, then maybe we don't have a deal anymore, Commissioner.

Scene 3

(*The Spirit gets caught by The Octopus.*)

The Octopus (O): Death. Death. Death, death. It's just about all we think about, isn't it? We eat so we won't die. We mate so that our seed will live on. Create art and build skyscrapers so that our names will be remembered for centuries.

We live our short frantic, fearful lives, twisting this way and that. Music and ambition. Making up gods, afterlives, all to keep our eyes off that immovable, impassable, diamond-hard retaining wall that is death, realizing it will splatter our brains ... like eggs.

S: Pardon me, but is there a point to all this? Because I'm getting old just listening to you.

D: Man, you are really thick. You just don't get it. We're two of a kind, you and me. Aren't neither one of us getting old.

S: Well, I sure as heck can get bored. You keep **teasing about (9)** how we're two of a kind. So how's that? What are we, Octopus?

D: I'm getting to that.

S: Well, move it along.



Vocabulary

1. **tart up:** to look cheap and flashy
2. **hot dogging:** performing showy, often dangerous stunts
3. **flat on one's ass:** completely exhausted
4. **dog and pony show:** an elaborate but empty presentation
5. **bring someone up to speed:** to inform someone of all information they are missing
6. **run a tight ship:** to control firmly and effectively
7. **to go off half-cocked:** to act without thinking
8. **off one's rocker:** to be crazy
9. **tease about:** to drop hints or inspire curiosity, but without following through

(By Wang Yu)